

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian Orthodox Church is considering canonizing the last czar, Nicholas II, and his wife, Alexandra, who were executed in 1918. The church's Holy Synod is expected to make a decision on the matter in the coming months. Nicholas II was the last emperor of Russia, and his reign ended with the Russian Revolution in 1917. He and his family were executed by the Bolsheviks in 1918. The church has a long history of canonizing emperors, and Nicholas II is seen as a martyr by many Russians.

Russian MPs will
Brezhnev plaque
returned

MOSCOW (AP) — The Russian parliament is expected to return a plaque to the site of Leonid Brezhnev's death. The plaque was stolen from the site in 1992. Brezhnev was the Soviet Union's longest-serving leader, serving from 1955 to 1982. He died in 1982. The plaque was a symbol of his leadership and the Soviet Union's power. The parliament is expected to return the plaque to the site as a gesture of respect for Brezhnev's role in the country's history.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Kabariti visited the offices of Royal Jordanian (RJ) where he was briefed by RJ Chief Executive Officer and President Nader Dahabi on the national carrier's privatisation and restructuring process. He was also briefed on the financial position of the RJ. Attending the meeting were Minister of Finance Marwan Awad and Minister of Transport Naser Lawzi.

Opposition to seek House speakership

AMMAN (J.T.) — Opposition groups at the Lower House of Parliament on Sunday announced they would support "a qualified candidate" for the Speakership post which becomes vacant next month. They did not identify the candidate. Hamzeh Mansour, spokesman for the Islamic Action Front (IAF), told the Arabic daily Al Ra'i: "The opposition deputies have agreed to nominate a qualified candidate to restore the House's respect." The IAF would seek a coordinated stand with other parliamentary blocs in addition to independent deputies in a bid to agree on a candidate, he said. Serving House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Sour has indicated that he might seek reelection. No other deputy has publicly said he or she might seek the post.

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King: Washington summit came at right time

Netanyahu promised 'pleasant' surprise; We will wait for outcome of negotiations and hope for quick positive results

Kabariti:
King's
message
frank and
clear

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said Sunday that the warning issued by His Majesty King Hussein to the Israeli government was not intended to freeze the peace process but was a call for the resumption of peace negotiations. In a speech at the Forte Grand Hotel to a gathering arranged by the Amman West Rotary Club, Mr. Kabariti said that the King's message to Mr. Netanyahu was clear and frank that it was time to move from the stage of verbal commitments to the implementation of agreements.

The agreements were signed by the governments of Israel and the Palestinians and as such, "the Israelis should respect the agreements signed with the Palestinians by their previous government led by Shimon Peres," he said.

The latest developments in the West Bank and Gaza posed a serious threat to the peace process, prompting Jordan to call for urgent intervention to safeguard the peace process and its achievements, said the prime minister.

On the internal situation, Mr. Kabariti said his government was committed to enhancing democracy.

"Freedom of the press in Jordan is unprecedented in the Arab World," he said. According to the prime minister, the government is considering a series of laws to create a better climate for investments and to open new markets for Jordanian workers and products.

"Jordan and the World Bank will finish soon their negotiations on several economic and investment programmes which aim at helping Jordan with \$125 million to alleviate the suffering of its people," he said.

The government will send draft laws to Parliament on a human rights and democratic centre, the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, the Jordan News Agency and the Jordan Press Association, he said.

"All these laws will raise the level of freedom of expression," he said. On the arrest and pending trial of some journalists, Mr. Kabariti said all the cases referred to the court were involved actions that were harmful to national unity.

After the address, Mr. Kabariti answered questions from the audience.

RJ plans reviewed

Earlier in the day, Mr. Kabariti visited the offices of Royal Jordanian (RJ) where he was briefed by RJ Chief Executive Officer and President Nader Dahabi on the national carrier's privatisation and restructuring process. He was also briefed on the financial position of the RJ. Attending the meeting were Minister of Finance Marwan Awad and Minister of Transport Naser Lawzi.

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein warned on Sunday that the Middle East peace process will remain in jeopardy unless the talks started by the Palestinians and Israelis after the Washington summit produce concrete and decisive results. He confirmed that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will arrive here today for talks on the peace process.

King Hussein told reporters upon his return home from London where he met British leaders after attending the Oct. 1-2 Washington summit, expressed hope that the Israeli-Palestinian talks would lead to positive results.

"We have been promised a pleasant surprise and let's hope this will be the case in

the interest of peace," he said.

The King was obviously referring to the promise that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made to him after he criticised the Israeli premier's policies and "lack of vision."

Mr. Netanyahu reportedly told King Hussein "I will surprise Your Majesty" after the King warned the Israeli leader's policies were pushing the region towards the brink of an abyss.

"All our efforts and the efforts of all people of goodwill throughout the region and in the world for comprehensive peace, a peace for the benefit of future generations was in jeopardy and still is unless these negotiations (between the Palestinians and the Israelis) lead to concrete and conclusive results," the King told reporters. "I hope

they will, and let's hope that we will have some good news."

The King told a magazine in an interview that the Arab World views the latest Middle East developments in a mood of "anger bordering on despair."

Discussing the Washington summit, King Hussein, in comments carried by Germany's Focus magazine, warned against the dangers of Arab anger but stressed that the peace process was "irreversible" as long as "responsible people control the situation."

On relations between Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat, King Hussein said he hoped the Israeli leader would deal with Mr. Arafat and the Palestinians "as equal partners and not as second-class partners who can be condescended to."

He warned that the Israel-Jordan and Israel-Egypt



His Majesty King Hussein is received upon his return home on Sunday by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad (photo by Yusef Allan)

peace treaties would "certainly be called into question" if the Israeli-Palestinian talks were not "strictly respected."

"Where would we be, in the future, if what our predecessors negotiated was

not recognised," he asked, warning of a possible resurgence of the "old demons of doubt, suspicion and fear."

In his comments in Amman on Sunday, the King said the Washington summit was "definitely

worthwhile" and came at the right time.

The summit came "at a very difficult time in the life of the region and a critical time in terms of the efforts, ours and of others, to achieve a comprehensive peace in this region," said the King.

King Hussein said he believed the summit "afforded us the opportunity to speak responsibly and frankly on all matters."

Responding to a question, the King said his warnings that the peace process was facing collapse due to the policies of Mr. Netanyahu did not entail a threat of hostilities.

"I did not threaten hostilities nor did I speak about hostilities in that sense," said the King. "But I felt that there were matters that needed to be looked at very seriously and I spoke very frankly and very open-

ly." The King's uncharacteristically harsh words to Mr. Netanyahu caused shockwaves in Israel's body-politic and rang alarm bells over the seriousness of the crisis in this region, said the King.

Jordan said that its ties with Israel were in "crisis" because of Israel's failure to honour its commitments and implement the agreements it has reached with the Palestinians.

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and other officials said that the only way out of the crisis was for Israel to implement its agreements with the Palestinians.

The King said his words "were well received, which I appreciate."

A senior official said that Jordan's criticism of Israel

(Continued on page 7)

New round of Hebron negotiation is delayed as U.S. mediators work

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The United States intervened in the deadlocked Israeli-Palestinian peace process Sunday, obtaining a 24-hour delay in the next round of formal negotiations so the two sides could try to narrow differences over the key issue of Israel's delayed pullout from Hebron.

Former Israeli Premier Shimon Peres met with Yasser Arafat Sunday and urged the Palestinians not to lose hope as they struggle through tough negotiations with Israel's new hardline leaders.

"The situation is very complicated, but in spite of all this, peace is not dead and we shall overcome all the difficulties," Mr. Peres said following a luncheon meeting with Mr. Arafat in Nabulus.

"There are ups and downs in the peace process, but when you are up, don't lose your head, and when you are down, don't lose heart," Mr. Peres said.

U.S. mediator Dennis Ross, meanwhile, said he requested the postponement of talks until Tuesday in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba to give Israeli and Palestinian officials who have been in informal talks throughout the weekend an extra day to work.

"Based on my own discussions and the ongoing talks, I have recommended to the two sides, and they have agreed, to defer the start of talks in Taba for 24 hours to give them the opportunity to ... create a stronger basis for achieving progress," Mr. Ross said.

A U.S. official close to the talks said the delay was a positive reflection of the good-faith effort being made by both sides to resolve the Hebron dispute and avoid a breakdown in the entire peace process.

"I think this is good news, it gives them time to work out their positions, to allow progress when things do start," he said.

But Mr. Arafat, speaking after meeting with Mr. Peres in Nabulus, reiterated that there "were still no results" from the talks with Israel.

The sides decided on the negotiations at an emergency Washington summit after fierce Palestinian-Israeli clashes last month in which 60 Palestinians and 15 Jews were killed.

Formal negotiating sessions were held in Israeli and Palestinian controlled areas of the Gaza Strip last week. This week talks were to be held for two days in Taba beginning on Monday, and then for two

days in the nearby Israeli resort of Eilat. Since the last formal session on Thursday informal talks have been continuing.

Israel's Channel Two television said in an uncorroborated report that Israeli General Shaul Mufaz had been holding "secret talks" with senior Palestinian security officials Jibril Rajoub and Mohammad Dahlan and that those talks were making progress.

It said civil affairs issues were what were now causing the problem.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hoped to achieve more municipal powers for Jewish settlers in Hebron, who oppose the redeployment, in order to placate them.

"The Israelis are objecting to Taba, and the Palestinians are still waiting for any word from the Israelis on the subject," one Palestinian official said.

Israel's state-run Channel One television said Mr. Netanyahu objected to the Taba site in response to remarks by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Mr. Mubarak said on Saturday he would refuse to meet Mr. Netanyahu until Israel settled the Hebron issue with the Palestinians.

Kabariti reaffirms commitment to private sector, promises to address industry snags

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Sunday reaffirmed his government's commitment to expanding the private sector's role in the economy and promised that the government would do everything possible to support industries with a view to improving the quality of Jordanian products and realising export-led economic growth.

Mr. Kabariti, in a meeting with the chairman and members of the board of the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI), also promised that the government would review draft laws and amendments related to the economy in light of recommendations made by the ACI.

The meeting came after contentions by industrialists that their viewpoints were not being studied by officials in charge of drafting legislation and that the interests of the industrial

sector were being overlooked by the government.

During the two-hour meeting, held at the ACI building and attended by Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb, Mr. Kabariti and the ACI board, headed by Chairman Khalid Abu Hassan, reviewed almost every issue that touches on the industrial sector in the Kingdom.

These included draft laws on customs duties and procedures as well as foodstuffs, the Amman Financial Market (AFM), exports to Iraq, bilateral trade agreements with Arab and foreign countries and incentives to investors.

The meeting also discussed means to raise the administrative efficiency of Jordanian industries as well as raising the quality of the Kingdom's products so that they could compete successfully in markets abroad.

"My government is totally committed to enhancing the role of the private sector as the dominant factor in the national economy and



Abdul Karim Kabariti

to extend every possible help to the industrial sector to achieve this objective," Mr. Kabariti said at the outset of the meeting.

Later, commenting on points and demands raised by the ACI board members, the prime minister said his government welcomed recommended measures as long as they would serve

the overall objective of strengthening the Kingdom's industrial sector.

"The private sector is the very backbone of the government's economic programme and its close involvement is an essential component of our plans," he reaffirmed.

Mr. Kabariti specifically referred to the ACI's grievance that the chamber's views were not fully taken into consideration while the draft laws on customs duties and procedure as well as foodstuffs were drawn up and promised that the draft legislation would not be sent to Parliament before the ACI's points of view were closely studied and absorbed into the bills as and where appropriate.

The prime minister suggested immediate meetings this week attended not only by the industrial sector but also "every party which has an interest in the issue."

"The goal is to ensure that all constitutional and par-

(Continued on page 7)

Talabani recaptures Sulaimaniyeh; Barzani group alleges Iran's support

ERBIL (Agencies) — Kurdish fighters pressed ahead Sunday with their offensive against a Baghdad-allied rival faction after recapturing their former stronghold of Sulaimaniyeh and other areas in northern Iraq which they lost last month.

Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) forces seized Sulaimaniyeh and the hydroelectric dam at Dukan from rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) fighters early Sunday, United Nations officials said.

The two factions fought later in the day with light arms, artillery and Katyusha rockets along a 15-kilometre front west of Lake Dukan, a U.N. official in northern Iraq said on condition of anonymity.

The U.N. spokesman in Baghdad, Walde Omar, told AFP that the PUK captured Sulaimaniyeh after midnight without firing a shot after its KDP forces fled the city two

hours earlier. PUK fighters later fired into the air in celebration, Mr. Omar added.

KDP leader Massoud Barzani accused Iranian forces of invading Sulaimaniyeh on the PUK's behalf and appealed for international help "from any side" to drive them out.

But PUK chief Jalal Talabani dismissed the accusations in an interview with the U.S. Cable News Network.

Iraq urged the two groups to settle their differences through talks and sternly warned the advancing faction against "dealing with foreign powers," a reference to the group's ties to Iran.

Clashes between the two Kurdish factions in late August led President Saddam Hussein to send forces into the northern Kurdish "safe haven" protected by U.S. forces. The United States responded by bombing Iraqi

military sites. So far, there was no indication Iraqi troops were involved in the latest fighting.

A PUK statement said its forces entered Sulaimaniyeh, the region's second-largest city with one million people, at dawn Sunday following a "spontaneous uprising" that ejected the forces of the KDP.

It said Mr. Barzani fled the city and took refuge in the northern oil city of Kirkuk, which is under the control of the Iraqi government.

In a statement, the KDP's office in London confirmed that its forces "evacuated the city to avoid bloodshed and fighting."

The group claimed Iran had "entered the war" and that thousands of Iranian Revolutionary Guards, backed by artillery, had pushed through the border into Iraq.

In Baghdad, the Revolutionary Command Council — chaired by President Saddam — and the Ruling Baath Party issued a blunt statement.

"We have consistently given severe warnings in the past against dealing with foreign powers ... We call upon the parties that have returned to fighting to expel the foreign forces and not to deal with them," the statement said. The Iraqi leadership said it was prepared to invite all parties to peace talks in Baghdad.

Mr. Talabani's forces had been driven out of Sulaimaniyeh, 275 kilometres north of Baghdad, on Sept. 9 in a KDP offensive which began 10 days earlier and brought most of northern Iraq under its control.

The offensive began Aug. 31 when Mr. Barzani's forces, with help from the Iraqi army, captured the key city of Erbil from the Iran-backed PUK.

Greek Cypriot man killed in buffer zone

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriot forces on Sunday shot and killed a Greek Cypriot who had crossed into the north of the divided island, British and Turkish officials said.

The incident raised to four — three Greek Cypriots and one Turkish Cypriot — the number killed along the buffer zone since tension began to rise in August.

Cypriot government spokesman Yiannakis Cassoulides called the killing of a 50-year-old man on Sunday "blatant cold-blooded murder."

Turkish Cypriot officials said the man, retired fireman Petros Kakoulis, had crossed 200 metres into the self-proclaimed Turkish Cypriot, state and ignored warnings to stop.

The shooting happened at 07:35 (0435 GMT) near the eastern end of the buffer zone, close to Achna village and territory controlled by British military bases.

"Sovereign bases police attended the scene of an alleged shooting," bases spokesman Mervyn Wynne Jones told Reuters. "We can confirm the body of a man was found lying on the northern side of the boundary," he said.

Cypriot police said Kakoulis, a resident of the nearby village of Agvourou in the government-controlled area of the republic, was with his son-in-law collecting snails.

"At one point his son-in-law lost him and then saw him standing with his hands up," he said. "Turkish soldiers shot him once and then walked closer to him and finished him off."

The body was removed after about four hours. Cypriot authorities were making representations through the United Nations to recover it.

"It was obvious from eyewitness accounts that he was no threat whatsoever because he had his hands up," Mr. Cassoulides said.

"The barbaric way they acted was to kill, not to wound. It is unbelievable the way they deal with a situation where somebody loses his orientation."

A Turkish Cypriot military spokesman said soldiers had called on him three times to stop. "He did not. Three warning shots were fired into the area. He attempted to escape. Shots were fired and he was hit."

The official said the Greek Cypriot had "passed through the buffer zone and intruded on (Turkish Cypriot) territory."

The shooting occurred near where a Turkish Cypriot soldier was shot dead beside the U.N.-patrolled buffer zone last month, he said. Turkey has 30,000 troops in the north of the island.

Tension on the island has increased since two Greek Cypriots were killed by Turks during protests along the buffer zone in August.

Cyprus has been divided since Turkey invaded in 1974 following a Greek-engineered coup attempt on the island. A Turkish Cypriot breakaway state in the north, recognised only by Ankara, was established in 1983.

Efforts by the United Nations, the United States and the European Union to end the island's 22-year division have so far failed.

A group of Greek Cypriot refugees from the 1974 invasion demonstrated on the western end of the buffer zone on Sunday to claim the right to return to their homes in the Turkish-occupied area.



PROTEST: Palestinian women demonstrate against the Israeli closure of the West Bank and Gaza and demand the release of all Palestinians held in Israeli jails as they march through the streets of self-rule Ramallah on Sunday. Israel partially lifted the closure that has been in effect since violent clashes in September although only some 3,000 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip went to work in Israel on Sunday (Reuters photo)

Algerian forces kill 12 gunmen

PARIS (R) — Algerian security forces killed 12 guerrillas in Algiers after a nearly eight-hour gunbattle around a villa being used as a hideout, an Algerian newspaper reported on Sunday.

And guerrillas struck again in the southern Algerian Laghouat province killing two people, four days after they slaughtered more than 30 passengers in the same area at a fake road block they erected, Al Khabar newspaper said.

Two gunmen shot dead a homeless man on Saturday at Algiers Place des Martyrs main square, the Algerian newspaper Al Watan reported on Sunday.

Security forces, using "heavy means," late on Friday surrounded a villa in the southeastern Algiers district of El Harrach where 12 rebels took refuge, Le Matin newspaper said.

"Gunfire from automatics did not stop throughout the operation," said Le Matin, adding that the encounter lasted about eight hours.

Troops, paramilitary gendarmes and police took part

in the combined operation against the 12 guerrillas armed with "heavy weapons," it added.

Al Khabar newspaper said on Sunday that an armed group broke on Thursday night into a Muslim prayer room in Kourdane town in Laghouat province, 340 kilometres south of Algiers.

They killed two people and tortured a third and then damaged the room by setting off a canister gas bomb, Al Khabar added.

The prayer room is controlled by Sheikh Ahmad Amar Tidjani, grandson of the widely respected chief of the Tidjani Muslim Brotherhood which has thousands of followers in several countries, including Senegal.

An estimated 50,000 people have been killed in Algeria's violence since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a huge lead.

German minister visits Algiers

German Deputy Foreign Minister Werner Hoyer

arrived in Algiers for a three-day official visit hailed by Algerian officials as the start of fresh business cooperation between the two countries, Algerian media reported.

"I hope we will open ways to promote our economic relations which are not so bad but they could be improved more," said Mr. Hoyer on his arrival late on Saturday.

The minister was accompanied by a large delegation of businessmen and other officials.

Algeria's Ambassador to Germany Mohammad Hannachi told the Algerian state-run television that Mr. Hoyer's visit to Algiers, the second in less than six months, underscored German interest in boosting its cooperation with Algeria.

"I hope the visit will mark a new start in our cooperation reflecting German interest in the new situation in Algeria," said Mr. Hannachi, who was the number two in the Algerian Foreign Ministry before being sent as envoy to Germany.

Kabariti says probe into alleged financial scam to be speeded up

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Sunday promised that he would ensure that investigations involving a local company and a commercial bank in what the local press describes as a multi-million dollar scam were speeded up and appropriate action is taken depending on the results of the probe.

However, very little of the essence of the case was available, more than four weeks after several officials of the company and the bank were detained for questioning. According to legal sources, the prosecutors are holding at least 10 people in connection with the case. The case reportedly involves exchange of goods with Iraq in return for oil outside the official protocol between Amman and Baghdad. It remained unclear how the oil transactions took place.

Iraq is under United Nations sanctions that ban its oil exports. Jordan gets its oil from Iraq under a special exemption granted to the Kingdom from the sanctions.

Mr. Kabariti's promise to speedup the investigation came during a meeting he held with the chairman and members of the board of the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) after ACI officials complained that the chamber was being dragged into the affair for no fault of its own.

The prime minister told the meeting that he was as anxious as anyone else to establish the facts in the case.

"I will make sure that the investigations are speeded up and the matter referred to court if need be," he said. "We cannot pass judgement on anyone; it is the responsibility of the judiciary to determine whether anyone is guilty of violating the law and to convict him or declare him innocent."

The whole matter, he promised, will be cleared up in a week's time.

Khaldoun Abu Hassan, the ACI president, said three officials of the chamber were called in early this month by the prosecutor handling the case for questioning in connection with certificates of origin that the ACI had issued to the company in question. The three were released after an overnight detention. They were not charged.

The certificates of origin, it is believed, were used in the alleged scam that reportedly involves discounting of bills against cash from the concerned bank without actually shipping the consignment.

"Issuing certificates of origin for Jordanian products upon requests from its members is part of the regular work of the Amman Chamber of Industry," said Mr. Abu Hassan, noting that chambers of commerce were also authorised to do so.

In this particular case, the certificates were issued after approval was given by the Ministry of Industry and Trade since the destination of the goods covered under the documents was Iraq, Mr. Abu Hassan said.

"It is not the ACI's concern what was done with the certificates, which were issued after the chamber satisfied itself that the goods covered by them were Jordanian-made," he added.

As such, he pointed out, the ACI had no responsibility whatsoever in the affair.

"We do not accept any smearing of the image of the Amman Chamber of Industry, which is a responsible institution that helps the Jordanian industrial sector to function and develop," said Mr. Abu Hassan.

Egyptian court rejects circumcision lawsuit

CAIRO (AFP) — A Cairo court has turned down a lawsuit filed a year ago by a human rights group against the country's highest Sunni Muslim authority over his support for female circumcision, judicial sources said on Sunday.

The court ruled that the Egyptian Organisation of Human Rights (EOHR) had "no interest at stake" in the unprecedented lawsuit it filed in April 1995 against the late head of Al Azhar, Sheikh Gad Al Haq Ali Gad Al Haq.

The cleric, who died on March 15, had issued a religious decree in October 1994 stipulating that circumcision was "a duty" for men and women and that religious leaders should urge people to perform the operation.

The EOHR protested by filing suit and demanding 500,000 pounds (\$150,000) in damages, which it planned to put into a fund to finance a campaign to fight against female circumcision.

According to the EOHR each year in Egypt nearly 3,600 girls, both Muslims and Coptic Christians, undergo the operation.

Mohammad Bassiuni, a member of the EOHR board and acting secretary general, criticised the reason invoked by the court to reject the suit.

Kuwait's new parliament tamer than its predecessor

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's crown prince has started consultations to form a government that will face a tamer parliament than the last opposition-dominated house, analysts said on Sunday.

"This assembly is not capable of overpowering the government," said a former deputy who lost his seat in last Monday's parliament election. "There will be battles but it (parliament) will not score."

Kuwait's opposition groups were dealt a blow when pro-government candidates won more seats in the all-male election, snatching some from better-known politicians.

On Saturday the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah reappointed Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah as prime minister and asked him to form the next government.

By law, the emir names the prime minister regardless of elections but at least one deputy must have a cabinet portfolio, while all ministers become ex-officio MPs — further boosting the pro-government vote in the house.

The last cabinet consisted of five of 50 elected deputies and 11 appointed ministers. Key posts like foreign affairs, defence and interior have traditionally been held by senior members of the ruling Al Sabah family.

Analysts consider up to 19 of the new deputies pro-government, Shiite and Sunni Muslim fundamentalists and pro-Islamists secured about 14 seats, six seats are held by liberals and the rest is shared between independents and tribal candidates.

The parliament, with 25 new comers, means an end to the days when the government "faced a sharp-tongued house, analysts and politicians said. Deputies had probed alleged corruption and the state's relations with Iraq ahead of its 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait."

"The government could do business in more harmony and comfort with this assembly," said political scientist Abdullah Shayeji.

However, some liberals and Islamists could still give the government headaches. The opposition accuses the state of mismanagement and influence-peddling that cost Kuwait billions of dollars after parliament was dissolved in 1986. Citing security reasons, parliament was dissolved at the height of the Iran-Iraq war but elections were held in 1992 in line with pledges given during the Iraqi occupation.

Mauritania has first woman member of parliament

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — Mauritania's ruling party cruised to victory in the country's first truly multi-party legislative elections and will have a woman member of parliament for the first time.

But at least one leader of the opposition, which failed to win a seat in Friday's first round of the elections, cried fraud and international observers said "certain imperfections" should be ironed out before the Oct. 18 second round.

Provisional results issued by the Interior Ministry said the ruling Democratic and Social Republican Party, which supports President Maouya Ould Sid Ahmad Taya, won outright 60 of the 79 seats in the new national assembly.

One of its female candidates, Lalla Zeina Bint Sbaghou, a mayor descended from ex-slaves, was elected with 61 per cent of the vote in the eastern constituency of Timbedra.

The pro-Ould Taya Rally for Democracy and Unity and an independent each won one seat, one result was unclear and the others will go to a run-off vote.

The opposition boycotted elections in 1992 in the sparsely-populated and arid country on the Atlantic fringe of the Sahara Desert.

"The absence of the opposition in the assembly is not good for democracy," former Prime Minister Sidi Mohammed Ould Bbouacur, general-secretary of the ruling party,

told Reuters. "We are very keen to see the opposition in parliament."

Veteran opposition heavyweight Ahmad Ould Daddah accused the authorities of fraud. "There was massive fraud, fraud organised by the state," he told Reuters.

His Union of Democratic Forces-New Era Party lost seats in two former strongholds in the south and two in the capital, Nouakchott.

But a new party, Action for Change, which champions the rights of black Africans and freed slaves in the former French colony straddling Arab and black Africa, made significant advances.

Dominant light-skinned Moors of Arab stock, Arabic-speaking ex-slaves and blacks each make up a

third of the population of 2.2 million in Mauritania, which won independence in 1960 and formally banned slavery in 1980.

The ruling party is to contest five seats against Action for Change in the run-offs and will face candidates from Mr. Ould Daddah's party and independents in the others.

There were 26 women among the 292 candidates. Turnout in Nouakchott appeared low with several polling stations reporting less than a third of their electorate voting.

Figures from the north, Mr. Ould Taya's stronghold, suggested a much higher turnout there. Mr. Ould Taya, a French-trained army colonel, took power in a bloodless coup in 1984, launched a demo-

cratic transition in 1991 and was elected president a year later.

The opposition had hoped to make its mark ahead of presidential elections due by January 1998, but political pundits said internal rivalries prevented it from presenting a united front.

Opposition supporters, many of whom expressed irritation at the heavy presence of soldiers and other members of the security forces at polling stations, spoke of problems over voting cards and multiple voting.

Poll organisers and officials acknowledged problems with the cards — mistyped names or identity card numbers — but blamed administrative inadequacies.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO

14:05MuppetShow
14:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
15:00Varieties — L'Intégrale
15:30Doc. — Travelling Gourmet
16:00Documentary
16:30Hey Dad
17:00News Flash
17:01Destiny Ridge
18:00 Magazine — Dassiopie
19:00Le Journal
19:15Magazine — Cinq Sur Cinq
19:30News Headlines
19:35Rosanne
20:01Documentary
20:30Cinema, Cinema
21:10The Lazarus Man
22:00News in English
22:30Best Seller
23:15Bodies of Evidence
23:59Dad's Army

PRAYER TIMES

04:17Fajr
05:34(Sunrise) Duha
11:22Dhuhr
14:38Asr
17:10Maghreb
18:27Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swefield, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590

Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Ira Santa Church Tel. 62366
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Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
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Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
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Church of Nazarene Tel.
675691.
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the
Department of Meteorology.
Cold weather conditions will
prevail with scattered showers
expected in different areas.
Skies will be cloudy to partly
cloudy and winds, westerly
moderate to active. In Aqaba,
skies will be partly cloudy,
winds northerly moderate and
seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 13/19
Aqaba 18/28

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Deserts 11/22
Jordan Valley 17/26

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 20, Aqaba 29 Humidity
readings: Amman 88 per cent,
Aqaba 54 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh 819220
Dr. Rulhi Sukkrah 856457
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikah 752405
Dr. Fadl Al Khatib 865436
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 64945
Shneisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 847632
Najih pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Baramneh 250080
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Rabah Al Burini 990312
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111, 657777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Dept. 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water & Sewage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
J. Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Co. 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITAL

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity 644281/6

AKIEH MATERNITY

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shneisani 607071
Shneisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreeq 771101/3
Al-Bashir 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275535
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)347100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:15Sanaa (RJ)
08:00Damascus (RJ)
08:30Jeddah (RJ)
09:10Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:20Beirut (RJ)
09:30New Delhi (RJ)
14:00London (RJ)
16:20Cairo (RJ)
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
21:15 Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
21:40London (RJ)
22:25Casablanca (RJ)
02:45Jakarta, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights

09:45Khartoum (SD)
12:40 Sharjah, Bahrain (GF)
14:00Vienna (OS)
17:30Athens, Istanbul (Q7)

ROYAL WINGS (RW) Flights

19:30Aqaba (RW)
20:10Beirut (ME)
21:40Tel Aviv (LY)
23:30Athens, Beirut (OA)
00:20Amsterdam (KL)
04:40London (BA)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
08:50Aqaba (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:35Beirut (RJ)
10:00Casablanca (RJ)
10:00London (add) (RJ)
11:30Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:15Cairo (RJ)
12:25London (RJ)
12:25Frankfurt (RJ)
20:45Damascus (RJ)
21:00Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:15Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:45Sanaa (RJ)
00:55Bahrain (RJ)

Other Flights

05:00Istanbul (TK)
06:45Beirut, London (BA)
07:45Beirut (ME)
11:00Khartoum (SD)
13:30Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:50Vienna (OS)
18:30Doha (Q7)
20:25Cairo (MS)
22:50Tel Aviv (LY)
23:55Damascus, Paris (AF)
01:30Amsterdam (KL)
03:00Beirut, Athens (OA)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jls per kg.
Apple 700/500
Banana 500/500
Banana (mulhammar) 420/420
Banana (imported) 820/600
Cabbage 130/80
Carrot 280/140
Cauliflower 370/220
Cucumber (large) 180/100
Cucumber (small) 340/200
Eggplant 240/140
Garlic 700/450
Grapes 480/150
Guava 600/400
Lemon 350/200
Marrow (large) 200/180
Marrow (small) 350/250
Mulukiah 240/130
Onion (green) 280/160
Onion (dry) 140/80
Okra 1000/600
Pear 670/600
Pepper (hot) 300/180
Pepper (sweet) 350/220
Pomegranate 420/250
Potato 320/220
Spinach 330/200
String Bean 700/500
Tomato 200/120

Home News

Jordan Times, Monday, October 14, 1996

3

Wheat board to create comprehensive workshop

AMMAN (Petra) — The U.S. Wheat Board (USWB) next month will organise a symposium in Amman covering economic, labour and pragmatic issues related to the grain.

An announcement made by visiting USWB specialist Hassan Abdul Ghaffar dealt with types of American wheat, the coming harvest season and potential benefits for the Ministry of Supply as well as Jordanian bakers.

Speaking at a meeting with Minister of Supply Munir Sobar, Mr. Abdul Ghaffar said that the symposium will tackle questions related to global supply and demand of wheat, the role that U.S. markets play and expectations of the price of this cereal, adding that wheat prices are expected to decline in coming months, [news] which, he said, should encourage buyers.

He confirmed that the USWB plans to organise a training seminar in Amman for workers and officials entrusted with examining and storing wheat con-

signments at the port and that attending the seminar will be workers and officials from other Middle Eastern countries.

"The USWB will continue to offer assistance to Jordan in the field of flour and bread making through visiting American experts and Jordanian officials and workers in the U.S.," said Mr. Abdul Ghaffar.

He said that Jordan, along with other countries in the region, will participate in an annual conference regarding flour mills, organised by the USWB in Egypt next October.

In his meeting with Mr. Sobar, Mr. Abdul Ghaffar reviewed auxiliary activities which the USWB plans to carry out from the present until September of 1997, noting that these activities include visits by USWB officials to the Kingdom as the Jordanian market is of interest to U.S. wheat exporters.

Mr. Sobar explained his ministry's recent measures of changing the form of bread subsidy into a cash compensation for Jordanian

citizens. This, he explained, aimed at halting waste and ending profiteering and manipulation by certain merchants.

With the new subsidy form Jordan has eliminated black market trading in bread and flour and reduced bread and fodder consumption, the minister said, adding that last month's flour and fodder consumption fell below the average by 34 and 12 per cent respectively.

Mr. Sobar also said that the government was encouraging the private sector to take over part of the responsibilities formerly relegated to the Ministry of Supply.

This will include permission allotted to private sector merchants to import and market certain commodities which were previously monopolised by the ministry, he said.

Mr. Sobar also stated that the creation of an atmosphere of competition is bound to benefit the consumers.

Publishers allege bias at international book fair

By Mousa Barhouma
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Numerous publishers who took part in the sixth Amman International Book Fair, which ends today, have complained that the Jordanian government banned and confiscated certain books slated for display.

The publishers, particularly those hailing from Syria and Egypt, alleged that the Press and Publication Department (PPD) not only confiscated books but destroyed some of the collections and refused to return the collected books to their owners.

But PPD Director General Mohammad Amin has countered the charges and complaints, maintaining that the "censorship of publishing freedom in Jordan is higher than in other Arab countries participating in the fair."

Some of the publishing houses, including the Sinai

Publishing House of Egypt as well as the Palestine Strategic Studies Centre, refrained from further participation in the fair following the alleged confiscation of various publications.

Issa Tannous, owner of the Syrian Al Ahali Publishing House, told the Jordan Times that "the PPD banned the display of 13 literary works some of which have been permitted in previous fairs and even sold in local Jordanian book shops."

Mr. Tannous described the censorship departments in Arab nations as "a sword hanging over the publishers' heads" and complained to Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid that the PPD destroyed approximately JD700 worth of books brought in by Syrian publishing houses.

Mr. Jameh Bahloul from the Syrian Al Assad publishing house requested that the PPD adopt a clear

policy in matters concerning the sanctioning of books and publications in the Kingdom.

Mr. Bahloul alleged that the department banned poetry and novels with neither political, religious nor prurient themes.

Samir Saddudin, who represents the Syrian Dar Allaoudin publishing house, said that the PPD banned publications this year which were displayed in the previous fair.

At least 30 publications tackling political, intellectual and literary subjects were confiscated, Mr. Allaoudin attested.

Head of the Jordanian Publishers Federation Fathi Biss said that censorship which is still practised in the Arab World is harmful to the publishing industry "but it is painful to see this happening in a small country like Jordan which seeks to serve as a beacon of culture in the Arab World."

Elias Farkouh of the Jordanian Azmena Publishing and Distribution House demanded that the PPD stop its censorship practices, adding that the world is currently witnessing an information revolution which has transformed the world into a small village.

Ahmad Abu Toq of Al Ahliya Publishing House accused the PPD of lacking a general policy and principles to govern censorship measures.

In reply to these accusations, Mr. Amin said that it is true that some of the books allowed last year were now prohibited due to [previous] insufficient time for review of the books in question.

He said that "the Jordanian Publishers Federation last year asked the PPD for permission to display more than a quarter of a million books within two weeks time which prompted me to [prematurely] approve of the books and I took

responsibility for that decision."

"This year the federation submitted their list of intended books three months in advance giving us ample time to study the publications but we had to confiscate some because they contained offence to the nation and others [which we found] morally unacceptable," added Mr. Amin.

As to books sold in the Jordanian bookshops despite an official ban, Mr. Amin said that these and others must have been smuggled into the country and illegally reprinted.

The book fair, hosted at the International Exhibition Centre, was opened under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan.

More than 200 international publishing houses participated, displaying books ranging from Islamic literature to computer technology.

Minority bias in U.S. publishing industry debated Workshop provides pointers to aspiring writers, publishers

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Is there an anti-Arab bias in the American publishing industry?

"If one is to say that there (is such a) bias, yes, I do believe it's true, but like everything and every minority, (Arabs are) misunderstood," said Lawrence Jordan, director of the Lawrence Jordan Literary Agency in the United States.

"There are opportunities in the U.S. for Arab writers — but psychological barriers need to be broken."

Mr. Lawrence's response was, in a question on the extent of bias towards Arabs in the industry.

It hailed from an audience of Jordanian writers and publishers during a seminar on the U.S. publishing industry hosted late last week.

The seminar at the Jordanian Writers Federation entitled, "The Literary Scene in the U.S.," was one of four held throughout the

week during the American Centre's "Corridors of Culture" programme.

"The controversy of Arab-related issues extends not only to writers, but to all public figures as well," Mr. Jordan said, after relating a story of a former American ambassador to the United Nations who, several years ago, met with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in his capacity as head of the U.N. Security Council.

"Consequently, such a controversy arose, he resigned from the U.N. It's been 13 years, but we're finally publishing his book," said Mr. Jordan.

"The moral is this: if you want to champion a cause, you have to be willing to pay the price," he said. "Eventually the world will come around to your position."

Mr. Jordan said that Arab writers should concentrate on works that are "exclusively Arab [in nature]."

Minorities, or writers of non-American origin, have introduced some of the most substantial changes in both content and language to works of fiction, said Richard Huot, director of merchandising for Bantam, Doubleday and Dell — publishers of Egyptian writer Naguib Mahfouz.

"These writers bring forth a new aspect of life to fiction that will garner success," he said. "But it has to be about your culture, your issues. Then it carries."

Messrs. Jordan and Hunt were accompanied by Dr. Colleen McElroy, a poet, novelist and playwright, and Mr. Charles Robinson, owner of Village Books in the United States.

Their week-long programme, entitled "From the Muse to the Marketplace," was designed to give Jordanians to the writing and publishing industry an idea of the exhaustive and competitive process of publication in the U.S., as well as the extensive marketing efforts afforded a book once published.

In the U.S., most unsolicited manuscripts must first pass through a literary agent, who determines whether or not a book might be accepted for publication at a publishing house. But the real work, they said, comes in marketing and selling the book once approved for publishing.

According to Mr. Hunt, 140-150 new titles are published daily in the U.S., making the market extremely competitive.

"Therefore, it's blind faith to think that a job is finished once it's on the shelf," he said.

New publications from Bantam, Doubleday and Dell, he said, can expect to see 150,000 points of sale across the United States.

"This includes airports, grocery stores, drug stores — anywhere people have the time and inclination to read, we put books," he said.

Bookstore owner Charles Robinson said the author is also important in marketing

a book. "In my store in Washington, we host 32 authors in 30 days to read and talk about their books."

Also, each of the four advised Jordanian audiences not to enter the publishing industry for the money. "There isn't any," said Mr. Jordan.

"Maybe that's a bit harsh, but you can't go into publishing for the money because you can make much more elsewhere. It has to be for hearty and minds."

"No facet of the book industry is profitable," Mr. Hunt relayed. "My colleagues share apartments and many have second jobs as waiters and waitresses."

The industry is profitable least of all for the writer. Most writers in the U.S. supplement their income by teaching. "It's not typical for a writer to sustain himself with income from writing," he said. "Typically, a writer now teaches writing (in order) to earn a living."

Nurses, midwives threaten to strike; seek proof that raises are forthcoming

By Tanya Habbouja
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Nursing and Midwives Association Council (JNMAC) is threatening a strike that could debilitate the country's public health system if the Ministry of Health does not make good on its promise to increase these healthcare workers' allowances from 50 percent to 90 percent.

The decision, which comes four months after a JNMAC sit-in early last June, was taken Saturday evening at a meeting of the council. The June work strike prompted Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Minister of Health Aref Balayneh to consent to the requested raise, starting in 1997.

But council members say they have had no sign of progress in that direction.

"So far nothing has happened showing that this [the raise] will be a reality," said Hashim Salameh, president of the

JNMAC.

"We want documentation from the Cabinet. If this happens, there will be no strike," he said.

The JNMAC cites as an example of pay inequity that government employed geologists earn much higher salaries (than nurses and midwives), despite their equal educational backgrounds and that both categories hold the first university degree.

The Ministry of Health currently employs 2,500 nurses and midwives, all of whom are willing to strike, according to Mr. Salameh.

"We are hoping that there will be no need for a strike, as it will affect patients. But we have to stand up for our rights," he said.

He called on the Jordanian people to support the nurses and midwives in their demands for higher allowances.

According to Mr. Salameh, the JNMAC is expecting a response from the government this week.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudanese official to discuss health care

AMMAN (Petra) — Sudanese Health Minister Ihsan Ghabshawi Monday will arrive in Amman for a four-day visit to the Kingdom. Ms. Ghabshawi will hold talks with Jordanian officials regarding health issues and their bilateral development. She will also visit a number of health institutions in Jordan.

Cold weather to prevail for next two days

AMMAN (Petra) — The Kingdom will continue to endure the present cold front for the next two days and weather conditions will range from partly cloudy to cloudy with scattered showers. Winds will be westerly and moderate to gusty.

Algerian delegation thanks government

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Algerian Islamic Society Movement Sunday expressed appreciation to the government for its support of the Palestinians and the Palestinian National Authority. Sheikh Mahfouz Nihnah and his accompanying delegation expressed the sympathy of the Algerian people for their Palestinian brethren. The delegates also toured services and care provided by the Arab Heart Centre.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Film

"Providence" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

"Nature Reserves in Jordan — Case Study of Dana Reserve" by Yahya Khalid and Tareq Abu Al Hawa at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 6:00 p.m. (Tel. 696682).

EXHIBITIONS

* Sculpture and painting exhibition by Mohammad Bushnaq at Kan Zaman, until Oct. 18.

* Works by Ghassan Abu Leban at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Oct. 23.

* Amman Sixth International Book Exhibition at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road, until Oct. 17.

* "Coloured Silence" exhibition by Samira Abdul Wahab at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until Oct. 20.

* Works by Ghada Dahdaleh at the French Cultural Centre, until Oct. 29.

New child centre allows custody visits in a friendly milieu

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Custody visits, once taking place in the frigid atmosphere of a police station or a courthouse, now have a more supportive, child-friendly arena in the Jordanian Women's Union (JWU).

A group of volunteers will discuss related issues in a four-day training course, beginning today, regarding family guidance and improvements to a legal advice hot-line as well as the aforementioned child centre.

The 26 participants will listen to sociological and psychological lectures by experts directed to those who seek assistance at JWU centres and the seminar will also cover calls received by the legal advice hot-line therein.

Noor Imam, a legal consultant at the JWU, said that the child centre is a neutral territory intended to provide a fitting atmosphere for children of divorced parents.

"These meetings used to take place in courthouses or police stations, but with the new centre, parents can avoid an inappropriate atmosphere and instead come and meet there," Ms. Imam said.

She described the centre as equipped with colouring and other books for children, a small playground, meeting rooms and toys.

In the past, Ms. Imam said, the parent who won child custody was legally obligated to take his/her children to a police station or a courthouse to enable the other parent to visit with his/her children.

She said the centre, opened in September, aims at keeping children away from such milieus and aids parents and their children to be more relaxed.

Many parents, who failed to show up at the police station in the past, due to the atmosphere "are now more encouraged to bring their children," she told the Jordan Times.

According to Ms. Imam, the union contacted the Chief Justice Office and the Church and Sharia Courts to obtain their approval and start transferring these cases to the newly opened centre.

"These authorities were pleased with the idea and immediately complied by transferring cases to our centre," she said.

Ms. Imam said that the legal advice centre, located in the same building, is open to anyone who needs legal or personal advice on matters such as divorce, child custody cases, inheritance, employment, tenants' rights and other matters.

According to Ms. Imam, the legal advice centre which started offering legal services early this year received 450 phone calls in the first six months.

Most of the calls or visits to the centre, she said, handled family problems which represented 44.2 per cent of the total calls and domestic violence cases, which accounted for 16.8 per cent.

Ms. Imam said anyone is welcome to visit or call the centre which provides legal and social assistance to families five days a week, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and is located on Jebel Hussein.

House speaker prepares for French president's visit

AMMAN (Petra) — French President Jacques Chirac's visit to Jordan later this month was the subject of a meeting Sunday between Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Saad Hayel Srou and French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajolet.

The two also discussed the French president's address to parliament during his visit.

Mr. Srou expressed Jordan's welcome to Mr. Chirac, who is expected to arrive on Oct. 23, adding that the Lower House is eager to attend his discourse, slated to cover diverse issues regarding Europe, the Middle East and France's role in both.

Describing the President's visit as historic, Mr. Srou outlined the two countries' strong relations as based on mutual respect and trust.

He voiced Jordan's appreciation of continued French support for the Kingdom and for its official stance regarding the

Middle East and also said that Jordan is looking forward to a reinforcement of bilateral relations in all fields.

Mr. Srou declared himself optimistic that Mr. Chirac's visit would open the way for further cooperation in economic, technical, scientific and cultural fields and he said that such cooperation is conducive to the establishment of a just and lasting regional peace.

In a statement to the press, subsequent to a cabinet meeting Saturday evening, Minister of Information Marwan Muasher said that France, as part of the European Union, is playing a major role in helping to solve Middle Eastern conflicts.

During his two day visit to Jordan, Mr. Chirac will discuss promoting Europe's role in the Middle East and economic assistance, the minister said.

Ina and Mark Kehrberg-Ostrasz thank all who have happy memories of Antoni and share their grief, and who are supporting them with affection and friendship.

Ina and Mark are particularly grateful to the Department of Antiquities for arranging the beautiful funeral ceremony on Saturday, and to the Mayor of Jerash for his generous hospitality.

Save water...
every drop counts

New Zealand Maori leader seeks high price for support

WELLINGTON (R) — Nationalist Winston Peters hinted Sunday he would seek a good price for backing either the left or the right as New Zealand braced for arduous coalition talks after an inconclusive election.

"Well, it will be a bidding war. That's what the process is about," Mr. Peters told TV3 news after voters banded his New Zealand First party the balance of power.

If Mr. Peters turns to the right, he could shore up the conservative National Party which has governed since 1990 and remains the largest single party in parliament.

If he leans the other way, the charismatic Maori leader could anoint the Labour Party, which would also seek support from the left-wing alliance.

National's Prime Minister Jim Bolger and Labour leader Helen Clark have both declared their aim to form a new government, with Mr. Bolger describing his chances as roughly even.

Apart from brief comments, Mr. Peters stunned the media Sunday as he cruised on a yacht and was unavailable to take a phone call from Labour's Clark.

New Zealand First gained 17 seats in the 120-member parliament, well behind Labour on 37 and National on 44.

But the election-night mood in Mr. Peters' camp was euphoric, with trium-



Helen Clark, leader of the Labour Party holds aloft a child early Sunday in celebration of her victory in New Zealand's first Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) election. The Labour Party will have to form a coalition with one of the other minority parties (Reuters photo)

phal music blaring and a stirring rendition of God Defend New Zealand, the national anthem.

Mr. Peters campaigned on a pledge to restore the country's "economic sovereignty," putting ordinary people's needs above the interests of foreign investors and big business. He seeks a 25 per cent limit on foreign stakes in "strategic" assets.

Mr. Bolger, who had warned free-market reforms would be in peril if the left won power, said the actual outcome was not the "Sunday, bloody Sunday" he had feared.

"We have a very strong economy and it can sustain a little period of indecision as the new government is formed," he said in comments aimed at reassuring

financial markets.

David Beers, sovereign risk managing director of Standard and Poor's, said the international credit rating was "broadly comfortable" with the election and saw no cause for concern.

New Zealanders were voting for the first time under a German-style proportional system which favours minority or coalition governments.

Mr. Bolger, who remains as caretaker pending negotiations which could drag on for weeks or months, has not ruled out a minority coalition with a centrist MP and eight from radical free-market Act New Zealand.

National campaigned on its record of economic growth, budget surpluses and tax cuts, but lost ground as rivals attacked its record on health, education and social policy.

Labour ran a strong campaign based on pledges to share more widely the benefits of 12 years of free-market reform, which many see as having widened the gap between rich and poor.

Most political commentators believe a Labour-led coalition is the likeliest eventual outcome.

New Zealand First's clean sweep of five seats reserved for the country's 13 per cent Maori minority was seen as favouring that scenario, as Maori voters have traditionally been far closer to Labour than National.



New Zealand First party leader Winston Peters sets off in a yacht from Tauranga Harbour the morning after the country's general election Saturday. Mr. Peters' party may hold the balance of power after a new proportional representation voting system left the electorate unclear as to who would form the next government (Reuters photo)

Access to Suu Kyi's home still barred

RANGOON (R) — For a second successive day, police Sunday barred access to Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's residence to prevent any public gatherings around her home, witnesses said.

Checkpoints were set up early Saturday to bar access to University Avenue in Rangoon along which the democracy leader's lakeside house is located.

During Saturday police at the checkpoints turned away several hundred people who had come to see if Ms. Suu Kyi would be holding her traditional weekend public gatherings from the gates of her house, witnesses said.

About 100 people were also removed from one of the checkpoints late Saturday by police vehicles and taken off by bus, they ad-

ded. A relative of one of those taken away from the area told Reuters Sunday his family member was freed after questioning.

Police and government officials were not available for comment on whether there were any new detentions in this latest move against Ms. Suu Kyi by the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

Ms. Suu Kyi herself was not available for comment as the telephone to her house appeared to be cut.

On Saturday, a government official said the road had been closed to prevent Ms. Suu Kyi from holding weekend public gatherings which the ruling military government feared could be used as an excuse by some people to create disturbances.

The SLORC has declared Ms. Suu Kyi's weekend public meetings illegal.

The official said he did not know when the checkpoints would be removed but residents in the area believed they would go Monday.

Access was also barred because Ms. Suu Kyi had planned to hold a meeting of some party officials of her National League for Democracy (NLD) at her home early Saturday, the official said.

The SLORC last cut off the road to Ms. Suu Kyi's house from Sept. 26 to Oct. 8 to stop her holding a planned NLD party congress from Sept. 27-29.

At the time, the SLORC also arrested 573 NLD party activists in a major crackdown but later released all of them in stages.

Russia's two powerful generals join hands in Tula

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's two isolated but powerful generals, Alexander Lebed and Alexander Kozhakov, Sunday brought a potent political alliance a step closer, appearing together in public for the first time to press their own electoral causes.

The disaffected duo, widely believed to be joining forces to tackle their mutual enemies in the Kremlin, came together to mark the 850th anniversary of the central Russian town of Tula, but the birthday celebrations quickly adopted the air of an election rally.

Gen. Kozhakov, formerly a close confidant of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, has already declared his intention to stand for the Tula seat in the Russian parliament, a constituency which Mr. Lebed was forced to vacate after his promotion to the Russian executive.

On Sunday, Gen. Kozhakov, ousted from the Kremlin in June, said his appearance in Tula amounted to a first stage in his bid to secure election to the lower house of parliament, Interfax News Agency reported.

Meanwhile, Gen. Lebed, who has made no secret of his intention to succeed the ailing Mr. Yeltsin as Russian president, was feted throughout his former stronghold with cries of "Lebed — our future president."

The two generals, both burly, no-nonsense nationalists, arrived separately in Tula for the anniversary celebrations, but their appearance together on a platform in the town's main square further fuelled intense speculation that they are on the point of forming a formidable political bloc.

Gen. Lebed again stressed his wholehearted support for Gen. Kozhakov's election bid, saying he would throw his weight behind the electoral campaign of the former head of the presidential bodyguards.

"Kozhakov is my (choice for) successor to the Duma," Gen. Lebed was quoted by Interfax as saying.

Gen. Kozhakov, for his part, biter at Mr. Yeltsin for agreeing to his dismissal in June after 11 years' service, has said he believes Gen. Lebed is the man to succeed the Russian president.

Analysts have for weeks

been speculating on a possible political alliance between the two maverick generals, both 46.

They see Gen. Lebed's huge popularity and Gen. Kozhakov's influence and financial contacts as a potent combination in presidential elections, which will have to be held if Mr. Yeltsin fails to recover from heart bypass surgery, due to take place before mid-December.

But Gen. Kozhakov's huge influence will only be of use if the shadowy one-time bodyguard successfully fends off allegations of large-scale state racketeering which public prosecutors are currently investigating.

Gen. Lebed Sunday scoffed at the accusations that Gen. Kozhakov was involved in a multi-million-dollar racket revolving around a sports foundation allegedly used as a slush fund.

"Whatever they say, they still haven't charged him with anything," Interfax quoted Gen. Lebed as saying in Tula, situated 200 kilometres south of Moscow. "I am also much spoken about."

The two are united as much by similar political stances as by their numerous mutual enemies in the corridors of power.

Since his promotion to secretary of the powerful National Security Council in June, Gen. Lebed has alienated several colleagues in the Russian government with his abrasive, shoot-from-the-hip style, and his tendency to step on other ministers' toes by straying from his security beat.

The gruff ex-general is moreover seen as a direct rival to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in the race to succeed Mr. Yeltsin.

Gen. Kozhakov, for his part, spoke Friday at his first ever press conference of his bitterness at the way he was dumped from the Kremlin in June, and hit out at the chief suspect in that political manoeuvre — presidential chief of staff Anatoly Chubais.

He warned that he had plenty of compromising material to throw at his political enemies if they raised the stakes in the sleaze

While Dole ponders, Kemp, Gingrich attack

WASHINGTON (R) — While Republican candidate Bob Dole plotted strategy for the final three weeks of the campaign, his surrogates Saturday verbally bludgeoned President Bill Clinton with charges of arrogance, fear-mongering and irresponsibility.

Sen. Dole, who has declined to use the so-called character issue as a weapon against Mr. Clinton, broke from the campaign trail to hold a day-long meeting with his advisers in Washington and did not take part in the chorus of attacks.

But his running mate Jack Kemp and House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich charged the president with a variety of ethical lapses ranging from broken promises to harbouring drug addicts in the White House and encouraging illegal immigrants with AIDS to cross U.S. borders.

Mr. Kemp, in the Republican radio address and in an interview on the CNN programme "Evans Novak," declared Mr. Clinton had fallen woefully short of his promise of the most ethical administration in this century.

"Four years later, the words that seem to characterise the ethics of this administration are words like Travelgate, Filegate, independent counsels and possible presidential pardons," Mr. Kemp said.

Those problems amounted to a pattern that was "sad and troubling" to all Americans, he said.

"An arrogance of power. The avoidance of responsibility. For this administration, taking credit is everything and truth is expendable," Mr. Kemp declared.

The Republican vice-presidential nominee insisted on CNN that he was not Sen. Dole's designated "attack dog," but said they had a duty to talk about this administration's "posturing and public disregard for the very standards they set for themselves."

Mr. Gingrich, campaigning in his home district in Georgia, pulled no such punches, accusing Mr. Clinton of lying on a range of issues, soliciting illegal campaign funds and tolerating drug users in the White House.

He revived his claim that drug users made up one quarter of the White House staff, saying Mr. Clinton chose to close an on-site FBI liaison office rather than expose guilty staff members.

"On inauguration day they're breaking the law and doing drugs. Two days later, they're in the White House. This must be the most disciplined set of drug addicts in the world, because none of them has ever used drugs once since they joined the White House staff," Mr. Gingrich quipped.

Noting an article in the Washington Post about a \$425,000 Democratic campaign contribution from an Indonesian couple, Mr. Gingrich cast the president as the central figure in a political scandal of momentous proportions.

"The president has been soliciting money from foreign nationals? The greatest power in the world being rented to foreigners? This is a scandal that has historic implications. It makes Watergate look trivial," Mr. Gingrich declared.

The Georgia Republican also took aim at Mr. Clinton on immigration and welfare, saying that under his administration "you can come to America illegally, sneak into the country, announce that you are HIV positive, be declared a political refugee, be eligible for \$120,000 of health benefits."

After his broadside, Mr. Gingrich spoke by telephone to Sen. Dole who has been under pressure to step up his own attacks on Mr. Clinton. So far, Sen. Dole has refused, saying that approach was "not my bag" and has instead hammered at the president's record, portraying him as a man who breaks his promises.

But time is running out for the Republican nominee who has trailed Mr. Clinton in public opinion surveys since the campaign began.

The Reuters daily tracking poll compiled by John Zogby showed Mr. Clinton with a 10-point lead Saturday.

The Clinton campaign has largely ignored the Republican attacks, declining to respond directly to the charges and instead pressing ahead with its own agenda.

For his part, the president Saturday promoted his environmental policies in Colorado before heading to New Mexico to prepare for his final debate Wednesday with Sen. Dole.

Sri Lanka reshuffles army leadership

COLOMBO (AFP) — The Sri Lanka army has made drastic changes in key positions as the government's drawn-out campaign against Tamil Tiger guerrillas enters a new phase, officials here said Sunday.

Sweeping changes of commanders handling the military drive against Tamil Tiger guerrillas will go in to effect November, affecting intelligence and fighting units, officials said.

Chief military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe becomes brigade commander in the eastern district of Batticaloa where the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have escalated their attacks.

Energy Minister Anurudha Ratwatte said earlier this month that security forces were preparing for a jungle battle with the Tiger guerrillas who were driven out of their last major town of Kilinochchi last month.

Under the military changes, seven major generals and nine brigadiers will

swap places. The last drastic shift in military commanders, was in May last year when seven brigadiers swapped places.

Major General Asoka Jayawardena, currently at army headquarters handling security in the capital, has been appointed overall operations commander responsible for offensive action against the Tigers, officials said.

Head of military intelligence, Brigadier Cbula Senviratne is being sent from his headquarters here to an operational area in the island's north to lead ground troops.

The Sri Lankan army is the main component of government forces battling the Tigers who are leading a protracted campaign for independence in the island's northern and eastern regions.

More than 50,000 people have been killed in bitter fighting in the past 24 years.

Meanwhile, Tamil Tiger guerrillas Sunday said that

they killed 3,055 government security personnel in the first nine months of the year in an escalation of their separatist war.

The clandestine LTTE radio said the biggest single loss for the army was in July when the rebels overran a key military garrison in the north-east of the country.

The Voice of Tigers radio said 1,200 troops were killed when they captured the Mullaitivu garrison but did not say how many of their own fighters were killed in the same period.

The government has claimed killing more than 3,000 Tiger cadres during a major offensive to capture the main bastion of the rebels in the northern peninsula of Jaffna last year.

Security forces also admitted losing 255 of their men during an eight-day battle to take the final major town held by the Tigers last month and claimed killing more than 700 Tigers.

Indonesia provincial governor asks church burning to be hushed up

JAKARTA (R) — The governor of the Indonesian province where thousands rioted last week, burning 10 churches and killing five people, has called for the attacks to be hushed up, the official Antara news agency said Sunday.

East Java Governor Basofi Sudirman, flanked by the province's military and police chiefs, told a news conference in Malang Saturday that the incident in the town of Situbondo Thursday came under the government's acronym SARA relating to sensitive issues of race, religion and ethnicity.

"The incident involving the mass disturbance of the crowd in Situbondo on Oct. 10 was purely a SARA incident," he said.

"Let us have the same aim when reporting it. This does not mean we will hide the facts, but this issue is very complex. Let us agree to hush up the problem," he said.

Antara said local security authorities were questioning 40 suspects after the incident. Officials said

Friday that at least 120 had been initially detained.

Gov. Sudirman said a crowd of between 2,000 and 3,000 people, angry with the proceedings against a man being tried on blasphemy charges, went on the rampage destroying places of worship, offices, schools and shops.

Security forces quickly regained control, he said, adding the situation had returned to normal.

Police said nine churches in Situbondo, four Christian schools, a convent and the court house were damaged. Other sources said a church in a neighbouring town and six schools were destroyed.

The accused, a Muslim, had angered the people by saying a well-known local preacher had died in an unnatural way and the Prophet Mohammad was not an envoy of God for all mankind.

"In the trial, the prosecutor demanded a sentence of five years jail because the slander had been proven but the crowd was not satisfied. They demanded the

death sentence," Gov. Sudirman said.

"The prosecutor himself explained that a five year sentence was already the maximum," he said.

Police said the reason why the crowd attacked churches was not clear. One report said the crowd was told the accused was hiding from them in a church adjacent to the court house.

On June 9, in the East Java capital of Surabaya 10 churches were attacked and burnt by Muslim crowds during Sunday services. The incidents were not reported to local media.

Similarly, an attack on Sept. 17 on a building used as a church in East Jakarta was also suppressed. Police at the scene seized all the film from the cameras of parishioners and journalists who visited the site in a semi-rural Bekasi area.

Indonesia is the world's largest Muslim nation with around 85 per cent of its more than 195 million people following Islam.

Leiden marks 400 centenary of old master

LEIDEN, Netherlands (AFP) — The Dutch town of Leiden has put on an exhibition of around 50 major works by 16th century landscape painter Jan Van Goyen to mark the 400th anniversary of his birth here. The paintings are but a fraction of the production of Van Goyen who was the most prolific of all Dutch old masters with more than 1,200 paintings and 800 sketches and drawings. The exhibition which opened Saturday is due to run until Jan. 13.

Van Goyen, whose father wanted him to become a glass engraver, learned his craft as the pupil of Esaias Van De Velde (1591-1630). He decided to specialise in landscapes, even though this style was not fashionable at the time. He painted hundreds of views of streets and villages, of dunes, estuaries, rural scenes all over Holland, in Flanders and along the Rhine. He travelled about making sketches which he used as models for his paintings when he returned home. He left Leiden at the same time as Rembrandt who was also born there. Van Goyen settled in the Hague in 1632 where his output declined over the following 15 years. At about that time, he went into property speculation and the risky trade in tulip bulbs which had just arrived in Holland. At the end of the 1640s, Van Goyen was ruined and many of his paintings were auctioned to pay his debts. He then launched into a frenzy of painting, producing "picture a day" according to contemporaries. He died in 1682, still hard-up though not impoverished.

Access was also barred because Ms. Suu Kyi had planned to hold a meeting of some party officials of her National League for Democracy (NLD) at her home early Saturday, the official said.

The SLORC last cut off the road to Ms. Suu Kyi's house from Sept. 26 to Oct. 8 to stop her holding a planned NLD party congress from Sept. 27-29.

At the time, the SLORC also arrested 573 NLD party activists in a major crackdown but later released all of them in stages.

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Nurses, Indian government renew anti-skirt battle

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian nurses have revived a campaign to press for uniforms with ankle-length hemlines saying they will go on hunger strike and refuse to wear white skirts to work. The All India Government Nurses Federation, representing 150,000 nurses in state-run hospitals, revived its drive at the weekend after New Delhi ordered salary cuts for nurses protesting against traditional uniform skirts.

"We are not going on a strike because the current dengue fever epidemic in New Delhi would spark medical chaos, but we are launching a hunger strike," said Federation General Secretary G.K. Khurana. She rekindled the agitation, frozen since Sept. 28, after Health Minister Salgaonkar Friday said he would not bow to the nurses' demands for camouflaged uniforms reaching down to their ankles.

"Shervani has said the government will not succumb to the demands of the nurses," said Mohini Giri, chairwoman of the National Commission for Women.

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Miss World swimsuit round moved to Seychelles

BOMBAY (AFP) — The swimsuit round of the 1996 Miss World pageant has been shifted from India to the Indian Ocean island of Seychelles following mounting protests against the contest, the hosts said Saturday. Manohar Arcot, general manager of the Amitabh Bachchan Corp. Ltd. (ABCL), the organisers, said the swimsuit round and the profiling of the contestants would be moved because they could cause problems in India.

"In the background of protests in India (against the contest), we felt, if this could be an irritant, let us remove it," Mr. Arcot told AFP from the southern city of Bangalore where the pageant will be held. "At the Seychelles government was very keen and enthusiastic to hold the entire event this year. They were making it worth our while," he said.



Leiden marks
centenary of
master

LEIDEN. — The Dutch
city of Leiden has
celebrated the
centenary of the
birth of the
Dutch Golden Age
master painter
Johannes Vermeer.
The city is
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Thousands visit huge AIDS quilt on Washington Mall

WASHINGTON (R) — The mounting AIDS toll was poignantly illustrated Saturday as relatives and friends of those who have died from the disease visited a mile-long memorial quilt in which each square represents a victim.

Later, thousands of men and women paid tribute by carrying lighted candles as they walked from the U.S. Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial led by actress and AIDS activist Elizabeth Taylor and health and human services secretary Donna Shalala.

"This makes me think of the crosses in a war graveyard," said Dixie Ann Gabriel, of Palm Beach, Florida, as she surveyed the 40,000 panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt stretching on the great mall from the U.S. Capitol to the Washington Monument.

Ms. Gabriel travelled from Florida with a friend, May Ann McKenna, 58, whose son died of the disease in her arms in 1992. "Somebody loved every one of these people that are represented on these quilts," she said, as a voice read off the names of some of those victims to the distance.

The quilt, shown in its entirety for the first time in four years, was first displayed in 1987 in Washington as a tribute to victims of AIDS. Since then it has grown 20-fold to honour the memories of 70,000 AIDS fatalities, said Scott Williams, a spokesman for the names project.

The quilt is made of individual panels about six feet by three feet (1.8 metres by one metre) feet sewn into groups of eight, and divided between pathways so that



The AIDS Memorial Quilt is laid out in front of the U.S. Capitol Saturday. The mile-long memorial contains 34,000 panels with nearly 70,000 names of those who have died from the virus (Reuter photo)

visitors could see individual tributes fashioned from canvas, cloth, paper and other materials. Many panels are named for more than one

victim. Some panels just gave a name of a victim, perhaps with a portrait. Others included highly personal items: a passport, a motorcycle jacket, a pair of jeans with a gold chain belt at the waist and condoms hanging from the back pocket, a teddy bear, a poem.

The date of birth and death given on most quilts was a testimony to the lives shortened by the disease, many who perished in their 30s and 40s. For some who visited the Mall, it was a chance to learn the fate of long-lost friends. Craig Bossi, 39, of New York, leafed through a 208-page booklet listing the dead and learned for the first time that several of his friends had died.

"I didn't expect to track down old friends this way," he said somberly. For many, the vast scale of the quilt personalized the toll AIDS has had in recent years.

"It's a lot harder when you look at names and faces instead of just the numbers," said Marty Raef, 33, of Baltimore, who embraced a friend as he toured the quilts.

"We might not know any people here, but it still touches you don't need to know them," said the friend, Chris Hacker, 33, of Washington D.C.

Although most of the victims remembered on the panels were Americans, the dead of 39 other countries are also in the quilt, said Mr. Williams. These include Germans, Cubans, Italians, Japanese, Russians, Thais, Venezuelans and Zambians.

"The extent is very, very impressive," said Ken Snyder, 83, a retired U.S. foreign service officer whose daughter is a nurse in a Texas AIDS hospice. It helps us "develop an understanding of death, which we Americans don't bother with. We tend to avoid it."

The entire quilt has been shown just five times since its initial unveiling in 1987, and the current display, which continues through Sunday, may be its last because it has become so large. On Friday and Saturday alone, families and friends of more recent victims brought about 2,000 new panels to expand the quilt.

"We're running out of spaces in urban America that can accommodate the quilt," Mr. Williams said.

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Hashimoto desperate to keep seat in final week of campaign

KURASHIKI, Japan (Agencies) — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is risking his political career at general elections next weekend, waging a desperate campaign to keep his lower-house seat in the western prefecture of Okayama.

While he appears to be gaining the upper hand, opposition New Frontier Party candidate Mutsuki Kato is putting up a strong fight, backed by a solid support base including Japan's biggest religious group and trade union federation.

"The election is really frightening," Mr. Hashimoto's wife Kumiko told AFP in Kurashiki, a once-flourishing commercial centre and river port west of Osaka which is now better known for its steel and petrochemical industries.

Mrs. Kumiko is spearheading the local campaign as her husband traverses the country to muster support for the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which lost its majority for the first time in 38 years in the last elections in 1993.

"We're running a desperate campaign," she admitted. "This is the one election we cannot afford to lose at any cost."

The conservative LDP is widely expected to remain the biggest party in the lower house but is unlikely to win an outright majority.

And if Mr. Hashimoto loses, he would be unable to head a future coalition, becoming a Japanese version of Chris Patten, the British Conservative Party boss who lost his seat in the last election and is now governor of Hong Kong.

Mr. Hashimoto himself fully acknowledges the risk. "I have no way to retreat," the 59-year-old prime minister told 300 supporters at a local fruit and vegetable market after returning to his old stumping ground Saturday.

Mr. Kato, an incumbent lawmaker and a former agriculture minister, has waged a vigorous campaign, focussing on small gatherings and house-to-house visits.

The 70-year-old veteran defected from the LDP when it split in 1993, and has since played a key role in challenging the LDP coalition set up in mid-1994 with the left-wing social Democratic Party and the centrist New Party Sakigake.

"We're determined to overthrow the leader of our rival party," Mr. Kato told a crowd of local supporters over the weekend.

The two men are longtime rivals. In the former electorate which had four seats, Mr. Hashimoto and Mr. Kato evenly divided the top slot in the past 10 elections.

Now, they are competing for one seat in a smaller district under a new electoral system adopted in 1994. Under the new system, 300 members of parliament will be elected from single-seat districts on Oct. 20 while the remaining 200 will be elected by proportional representation.

Mr. Kato is hedging his bets by also running in one of the 13 proportional representation seats being contested in western Honshu.

Under Japan's new electoral system, candidates can run in both single-seat districts and seats elected under proportional representation.

Although he would have been assured of victory under the proportional system Mr. Hashimoto decided

to risk running only in the local constituency, where he faces the prospect of losing his seat to Mr. Kato.

"I took it upon myself to run only in this constituency," Mr. Hashimoto said. "I have no way to retreat. I want you to decide on Oct. 20 whether to give me the qualifying marks and whether to let me take charge of the country."

LDP campaign officials said he made the decision to save a proportional representation seat for a weaker candidate.

But the risk of losing leaves his supporters restless.

"It's just like standing on a cliff," said Ginnosuke Yoshida, who chairs Mr. Hashimoto's support group. "If we lose the election, Mr. Hashimoto will be forced to leave government. Defeat will mean the end of his life in politics."

During a weekend rally at the group's office, about 150 supporters gathered to offer sake and fruit before makeshift altars.

Japanese newspapers and magazines say Mr. Hashimoto is leading and that the number of people who want to embarrass him is extremely limited.

"I will definitely vote for Hashimoto," said Yoshio Hori, a 58-year-old building company employee. "If he loses, it will bring shame to our hometown."

Mr. Kato's main advantage is support from Soka Gakkai, the biggest lay Buddhist group in Japan which supports the New Frontier Party in most districts. It controls an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 votes in the electorate of 330,000.

"We are ready to join forces to beat the prime minister," said Masami Kai, a 32-

year-old Soka Gakkai member. "Our support for Mr. Kato is very solid."

The Japan Trade Union Federation also supports Mr. Kato, having recently dropped its policy of backing the Social Democratic Party alone.

Mr. Hashimoto clearly signalled Sunday that a coalition government, not his party's outright leadership, was the possible result of Japan's Oct. 20 general election.

Speaking after casting an absentee vote — presumably for himself — in his home constituency because he will be away on election day, Mr. Hashimoto said his liberal democratic party would look favourably on groups who shared its views.

"I don't exclude cooperating with individuals and political parties who subscribe to similar views following an adjustment of opinions," he said in several television interviews.

Most opinion polls and commentators have forecast neither the LDP nor the opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) will win a majority in the 300-seat lower house election.

The government is expected to be formed by whichever of the two groups persuades other parties to join them in a coalition.

On Saturday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama spelled out even more clearly the likelihood of a coalition government after Oct. 20.

"While we at the LDP may not be able to get an absolute majority in the election, we should explore the possibility of close cooperation with other parties with little difference in opinions," he told reporters.

Japan protests Russian seizure in new island row

TOKYO (R) — Japan, already at odds with China over disputed islands, protested Sunday against Russia's first seizure of a Japanese fishing boat for 13 months and faced an escalating foreign policy headache over territorial waters.

Japan also found itself under fire from North Korea on a third island dispute with no way out of the rows until after the general election on Oct. 20.

A Japan foreign ministry spokesman said Russian coastguards Saturday seized the 10-tonne Japanese trawler Wakatake Maru No. 31 and its five-man crew for fishing in waters claimed by Russia around islands called the Southern Kuriles by Moscow and the northern territories by Tokyo.

The group of four islands are near the coast of Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido. They are Etorofu (Iurup to the Russians), Kunashiri (Kunashiri), Shikotan (Shikotan) and Habomai (Habomai).

They all have names derived from the language of the Ainu, an indigenous people who have lived on the islands and northernmost Japan from prehistoric times.

Japan has claimed the islands since the mid-19th century and says the former Soviet Union overran the group at the end of World War II. The issue has been a major barrier to Tokyo normalising relations with Moscow and giving aid to Russia.

The trawler, the first Japanese boat seized by Russia in the area since September 1995, was escorted to port in Kunashiri.

It was fishing about six miles off the coast of Kunashiri in an area Russia claims as its territorial water.

"We have protested its seizure," the spokesman said. "For the past month Japan has also been involved in a conflict in its southern waters with China and Taiwan over

islands claimed by the three in the East China Sea.

Tokyo calls the islands the Senkakus, while Beijing, Taipei and Hong Kong call them the Diaoyus.

Last Monday, a flotilla of 300 Taiwanese and Hong Kong protesters pierced a Japanese cordon around the islands and raised the Beijing and Taipei flags to protest against a lighthouse erected by a Japanese rightwing group earlier this year.

Emotions were fanned last month when a Hong Kong activist drowned after he jumped into stormy waters around the island to demonstrate Chinese claims.

On Saturday, Japan's top government spokesman said Tokyo may send two special envoys to Beijing after Oct. 20 general elections, to negotiate an end to the row.

"We have to clear up any doubts they (China) have about Japan," Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama told reporters. "We have to seek a compromise."

Japanese media reported that on the weekend Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen told Tokyo journalists in Beijing he also wanted an improvement in "stagnant relations" with Japan.

"Japan and China will mark the 25th anniversary of diplomatic normalisation next year. The two governments are supposed to take tangible actions to create a favourable mood and conditions to celebrate the anniversary," NHK television quoted Mr. Qian as saying.

North Korea Saturday joined a row between South Korea and Japan on Tokyo's claim to two uninhabited islands, called Tokdo by South Korea and Takeshima by Japan, in the Sea of Japan.

Tokyo has claimed the islands since 1905 when it signed — some historians say forced — an agreement with Korea that paved the way for its colonial rule over the Korean peninsula.

British Conservative member defects to Liberal Democrats

LONDON (R) — A member of Prime Minister John Major's Conservatives defected Saturday to the opposition Liberal Democrats, denting the optimism with which the ruling party had ended its annual conference a day earlier.

The defection by Peter Thurnham will not affect Mr. Major's parliamentary majority of just two, because the maverick politician resigned from the party whip in February which meant he was not expected to vote with the government.

"I can no longer support a government which has so lost touch with the basic values of decency that they have forfeited the trust and respect of the British people," Mr. Thurnham said.

In a lengthy statement, Mr. Thurnham outlined his "despair" over Mr. Major's weak leadership, party disunity, education policy and calls by his colleagues for vote-winning tax cuts before the next general election.

"I cannot, above all, accept the latest attempts by the government to suppress enquiries into allegations of sleaze which poison the very basis of our democracy," Mr. Thurnham said.

Mr. Thurnham's defection came the day after the Conservatives ended a triumphant annual conference at which party splits were hidden and Mr. Major won plaudits for an informal question and answer session

as well as his set-piece speech.

Before the party conference, held in Bournemouth, southern England, major had been mired in allegations that some members of his party had taken bribes to ask questions in parliament and others had tried to stifle an inquiry into the matter.

Mr. Thurnham resigned from the party whip over another inquiry, which severely criticised government ministers for their part in the sales of arms to Iraq in the late 1980s.

The member of parliament for the constituency of Bolton north east in northern England had previously said he was considering leaving the ruling party.

His defection is likely to cause the Conservatives less grief than the loss the week before the conference of Lord McAlpine, a former party treasurer and deputy chairman.

Mr. McAlpine left to join the newly-formed referendum party of tycoon Sir James Goldsmith.

A spokeswoman for the Conservatives said the party was unperturbed by the loss of Mr. Thurnham.

"This doesn't change anything. Our majority is still the same, which is two," she said.

Mr. Major's majority rose from just one last week, following the death of a Labour member of parliament.

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Peace message: same address

A QUICK glance at the twelve new alterations demanded by Israel on the agreement to redeploy the Israeli army out of Hebron would reveal that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu remains, by and large, uncommitted to the implementation of the Oslo accords. The alterations his government is proposing, to put it mildly, are nothing but fundamental changes to the agreements struck by the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and former Prime Minister Shimon Peres with Palestinian National Authority President Yasser Arafat. Does this, then, show that the hardline attitude that the Netanyahu government has adopted so far will not change any time soon?

The Israeli prime minister promised a "surprise" to His Majesty King Hussein at the end of the Washington summit two weeks ago and the King said yesterday that it was going to be a "pleasant" one. But it seems we are not at the point yet where we can be optimistic. Even if it is presumed that Netanyahu's new demands are only bargaining chips, expressing in a way maximalist demands, the fact that the Israelis think that they can get away with attempts to rewrite the peace process suggests that they won't go far in accommodating Arab legitimate rights, as enunciated in mutual agreements, in times to come.

As if it is not bad enough that other Palestinian self-government areas, like Nablus, remain closed in by the Israeli army, now the new Israeli leader is suggesting not only that the Palestinian police be almost powerless even in the face of Palestinian extremists but also "thinks that the Hebron municipality should be denied even zoning rights. Why redeploy at all in Hebron if the Palestinians cannot even run their own municipal affairs?"

When a new demand is added to the effect that Israel should reserve the "right" to reenter Hebron at will in "hot pursuit" of any Palestinian wanted by Israel and remain in military control of the high ground around the city, the picture that emerges is one where the Israelis seek not redeployment but rather the reoccupation of Hebron under a new name.

The Israeli double talk has to end before hope for peace is restored on both sides. Now is the time for straight talk. His Majesty yesterday renewed the warning that peace is at a crossroad. Jordan, the King suggested, cannot be taken for granted either. If Israel reneges on its agreements with the Palestinian National Authority it risks reversing the tide of warm relations with Amman. This much the Monarch has tried to impress upon Netanyahu and we hope the Israeli government has received the message by now.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Rai's Sunday said slogans expressing support for the Palestinian people must be translated into action; and the wealthy Palestinians are called on to take the initiative. Sultan Al Hattah said that expressions of support require from the Arab and Muslim people to donate generously and contribute to the strengthening of the Palestinian people's steadfastness, but the wealthy Palestinians in particular ought to respond immediately to the cries for help, especially from hospitals which lack basic medicines and medical equipment to offer badly needed treatment to the people wounded in the confrontation with the Israeli forces and patients who cannot afford treatment abroad. The writer said that the Ramallah hospital in particular has been asking the Arab and Muslim world for help, but little or no help has been forthcoming. Expressions of support, he said, remain meaningless unless financial and material help is provided and slogans of backing for the oppressed people of Palestine should be translated into actions on the ground. The wealthy Palestinians, added the writer, should not only finance the supply of medicines but also hospitals for their brothers and sisters who are facing the Israeli atrocities. He said the time has come for the Arab and Muslim nations to show by deed, rather than words, their commitment to backing the Palestinians' struggle for freedom.

IN A bid to exploit state-owned lands for agricultural purposes, the government has recently decided to create an official corporation to handle matters connected with leasing lands and encouraging food production, said a writer for Al Dustour. Though this initial step is essential, it is not enough because official government agencies lack experience in tackling such an issue, and there is need for involving the private sector businesses which have vast experience in land development to help achieve the aspired target, said Mohammad Daoud. It is true that part of the state-owned land has already been offered to private firms to be developed and grow much needed cereals, but that move was not sufficient and production proved to be limited, said that writer. He demanded that the new corporation take steps to organise the process of leasing the lands in the most appropriate manner and according to well-studied plans, but leave the question of food production to private companies under conditions that they utilise them to produce wheat, barley and other basic cereals for local consumption. He demanded that the government also sell state-owned land to the public to start small businesses and use the money to finance basic services and development schemes.

Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

Intellectual property rights and the pharmaceuticals

AS JORDAN undertakes negotiations to enter the World Trade Organisation (WTO), many special interest groups are showing sincere concern because the 28 agreements that are to be signed as a prerequisite for membership to the WTO will touch upon the way business is done in every sector in the Jordanian economy.

Some will be adversely affected in the short run, as adjustment costs burden the production process and as management attempts to learn new practices. One sector that will be seriously affected is the pharmaceutical industry.

Jordan's pharmaceutical industry consists of 16 firms, eight of which are in the set up stage. Total investment in this sector is approximately \$400 million, with \$70 million in paid up capital. The eight firms that are in operation now have exported \$120 million worth of medical goods last year, placing pharmaceuticals third in the size of exports after potash and phosphate. Their market is mainly the Arab World and Third World countries, with some promising forays taking place into the Western hemisphere. Additionally, domestic pharmaceutical production provides 30 per cent of Jordan's needs, about \$70 million (\$17 per capita).

The industry does not concentrate on creating new products but assembles or combines inputs that are imported from outside Jordan to formulate new products which are then marketed under Jordanian brand names. According to a paper written by the Pharmaceutical Sector's Intellectual Property Committee, the expenditures of Jordanian companies on research and development (R&D) represent 30 per cent of the total R&D input into drug manufacture. Jordanian formulation processes, according to the industry experts, are not replicas of foreign ones and are therefore unique.

Once Jordan accedes the WTO, it will have to become party to the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights Agreement (TRIPS), one of the most important agreements which emerged from the Uruguay Round negotiations. This agreement patents both the product and the process. Therefore, Jordanian manufacturers have to ensure that their processes do not duplicate the patented processes of other manufacturers. Otherwise, they could be liable for lawsuits concerning patent infringements.

TRIPS allows new members an adjustment period of five years. Members that do not have patent protection

laws can ask for an additional adjustment period of five more years. However, the member countries may not give a new member the whole ten years; indeed, the recent trend has been to ask prospective members to ratify TRIPS in no more than five years. Furthermore, patent protection need not be implemented until the transition period has expired. The preparedness of the national accession team and the level of expertise it can utilise is what will win it a short or lengthy adjustment period.

The articles of TRIPS are not cast in stone. There are many legal loopholes in TRIPS that can be utilised by Jordanian drug manufacturers. Articles 7, 8, 24, 27, 70 of TRIPS and Article 12 of GATT, 1994, can prove useful to any person that is interested in obtaining delays and a way out of restrictions of TRIPS. The pharmaceuticals' best strategy is to organise a legal bureau and acquire the services of experienced legal council. Some Jordanian lawyers have started educating themselves about the WTO and have amassed quite an arsenal of information in the area of intellectual property rights and TRIPS. Furthermore, there are many international consultants whose names can be provided by international organisations to help advise what should become the pharmaceutical lobby.

The Economist magazine suggested, as a way out of the patent dilemma for Third World nations, that government buys an expensive patent and then makes it available to domestic firms at low prices. This method, bizarre as it may sound, could be applied in cash-rich countries but may be totally impractical in poor countries. Also, this method invites corruption and further enhances monopolistic practices. But, it may be feasible as a last resort.

The pharmaceutical industry must organise into a lobbying force to help the government make optimal decisions regarding global commitments. However, the industry must also be aware of the possibility of having its practices branded as monopolistic. Most importantly, the consumer must be demonstrated that he benefits and quality should never fall with protectionism (which is usually the case). Otherwise, those of us who have so vehemently spoken in support of our industries may feel betrayed and support the entry of competition from abroad. "Made in Jordan" or "Made at Home" is meaningless if it does not stand also for quality and low prices. In the long run, quality and price are what make winners and losers.

Remember, the U.S. also played a part in creating terrorists

By Flora Lewis

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton has asked for more than \$1 billion in new money to fight terrorism. His Republican opponents charge he has been lax in pushing the CIA to track terrorists, which CIA Director John Deutch denies even as he announces he will hire more foreign informants and promote more covert action.

Terrorism is the plague of the decade, and in the public mind, as often in fact, it is associated with fanatic movements in the Middle East. But the current crop of organised, sophisticated murderers is a legacy of previous decades; it didn't just spring to life. As the United States has angrily charged, some governments have funded and helped these murderers, but not many people realise that a major source of support was the U.S. government itself.

Without a better understanding of how this worked, the chances not only of repressing the terrorist menace but of making sure not to repeat the programmes that nourish it are not particularly good. To those who pay close attention, the name at the core of the evil is not Iran, Syria, Libya, Iraq but "Afghani". These are not natives of Afghanistan but people recruited from Muslim countries and sent to fight in the guerrilla war against the Soviets. Through the auspices of Pakistani military intelligence, the United States arranged for them to be armed and trained. Now the veterans have spread out across the Middle East, to the Philippines, some to Bosnia. Americans are their target of preference, though French intelligence officials worry about their moves in Western Europe.

From time to time, specifics filter out. Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, recently convicted in New York of plotting to bomb 12 American airliners, was an "Afghani". Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, also convicted in New York for bomb plots, was connected to the network.

Elfaith Hassanain, a Sudanese who organised a huge military and financial supply programme for Bosnia, was plugged in. Osama Laden, a very rich Saudi, got caught up in the Afghan war and came to sponsor terrorist groups. Though a resident of Sudan, he is now reported to be in Afghanistan, where he has called for attacks on U.S. forces in the Gulf.

All this has been in the Western press, based on a number of Western intelligence sources. It comes out only in dribbles, and meanwhile serves the terrorists' purpose of intensifying friction between Islam and the West and destabilising developing Islamic societies.

It must be said that it is to the credit of American aviation officials and the FBI that they have refused to proclaim the explosion of TWA Flight 800 the result of a bomb — many would say a Middle East bomb — in the absence of hard evidence, despite intense pressure.

Conspiracy theorists are convinced authorities really known it was a bomb, but haven't said so for their own reasons — first not to disturb the Olympic Games in Atlanta, now not to disturb American elections. But it would be as much of a disservice to the real and necessary campaign against terrorism to assign unsubstantiated blame as it is to withhold known facts. Both create a climate of fear, the terrorists' aim.

That is why the Afghan story needs to be told, not only in the interest of disclosure but to make sure lessons of the unintended consequences of covert action — especially in the murky complexities of the Middle East — are adequately learned.

An American correspondent, John Cooley of ABC News, has spent many years tracking down details of the secret Afghanisthan operation, which dates all the way back to the 1960s, well before the full-scale Soviet invasion. Based in Cyprus, he has written a book tracing the operation's effects and implications that have spread through Asia, Europe and the United States. He calls it "The war that everyone lost."

Amazingly, he has not found a publisher. Fear to face the subject still seems to cling, though he has headline-making revelations. One, of enormous consequence, tells how French intelligence gave the CIA the idea of encouraging the sale of drugs to demoralise Soviet troops, producing not only money to finance the war but a huge boom in opium and heroin trafficking from which Europe and the United States still suffer.

Others tell of "Afghani" buses in North Africa and Sudan. This is a book we need. If we do not learn how these things start and function and spread, embargoes and more covert action are not likely to help a lot.

International Herald Tribune

Human Rights File

Where international human rights treaties begin and peace talks end

By Waleed M. Sadi

AT A time when the Israeli-Palestinian National Authority (PNA) peace talks are on the verge of reaching the final stage, nothing is being said about Israel's international treaty obligations as legal guidelines for determining the ultimate status of the Palestinians and their territories.

Israeli prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has recently declared that upon the resolution of the Hebron controversy, his government would be ready to enter the third and final stage of negotiations with the PNA on the final status of the Palestinian lands. Mr. Netanyahu, however, went to great lengths to delineate the Israeli perimeters for the upcoming final peace talks, without showing the least deference to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which his country ratified only four years ago.

Israel is also state party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESC), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to name but a few.

All these international instruments impose legal obligations on Israel and happen to have tremendous bearings on the ongoing peace talks between the two sides. ICCPR, though, stands out as most important in the context of the third stage negotiations that are supposed to spell out the civil and political rights of the Palestinian people.

The Likud-led government, in this context, is resting its case on the need to reconcile the Israeli need for maximum security with the objective of granting the Palestinians optimum freedoms. This Israeli proposition is clearly oblivious of the country's treaty obligations under ICCPR, which are legally binding and establish the international legal norms for determining the political and civil rights of Palestinians who come under the control or jurisdiction of Israel.

Both the Israeli and the Palestinian delegations should become aware of ICCPR and apply its principles as the paramount and overriding criteria for determining the final status of the affected Palestinian areas, whether under the direct or indirect Israeli occupation.

That ICCPR is legally binding on Israel and all other states which have ratified it is a foregone conclusion based on the exact wording of the Covenant and the established jurisprudence of the Human Rights Committee (HRC) which monitors the application of the human rights treaty and interprets its provisions. Article 2(1) reads as follows: "Where not already provided for by existing legislative or other measures, each state party to the present Covenant undertakes to take the necessary steps, in accordance with its constitutional process and with the provisions of the present Covenant, to adopt such legislative or other measures as may be necessary to give effect to the rights recognized in the present Covenant."

This language has been repeatedly construed to mean, by the HRC, as legal obligations for which state parties would be held accountable. There is no escape from the conclusion, therefore, that Israel is treaty obligated to implement the Covenant.

The other salient feature of the Covenant, for the purposes of the negotiations on the final status of the Palestinian territories, include Article 2(1) which stipulates that provisions of the Covenant apply to all people who fall under the jurisdiction of a state party, irrespective of whether they are citizens or residents thereof or people who are under its control or jurisdiction.

The Article in question reads as follows: "Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to ALL INDIVIDUALS within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognized in the present Covenant, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

This provision, I suggest, clearly applies to all Palestinians, whether living within the territories subject to the PNA rule or not, since they remain effectively under Israeli jurisdiction pending the determination of the final status of these territories. People whose territory comes under occupation by another state are deemed as subject to the jurisdiction of the occupying state. This interpretation has been the established jurisprudence of the HRC on the subject.

Now what are Israel's treaty obligations when it comes to the Palestinian civil and political rights? If one starts with Article 1, one gets a bird's eye view of Israel's legal obligations to the Palestinians, that should serve as an essential part of the terms of reference of the projected negotiations on the final status of the Palestinians and their lands.

The article states that "all peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development." Paragraph 3 of the same article gets even clearer on state parties' legal obligations in this vein. "The State Parties to the present Covenant," the third paragraph reads, "including those having responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, shall promote the realisation of the right of self-determination, and shall respect that right, in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations."

That the Palestinians constitute a recognised people and their territories are still non-self governing for all intents and purposes till the resolution of the final status negotiations, are propositions that are self evident and irrefutable. The full import of the right of self-determination, as outlined by the Covenant and the U.N. Charter, would necessarily mean that the Palestinians, and they alone, should determine their future and their final status on the personal level as well as on the territorial level.

If Israel wishes to renege on its solemn and legal commitments to the international community to grant the Palestinian people the ultimate right to determine their status and the status of their lands, then that is another story altogether.

Israel, on the other hand, prides itself as a civilised, contemporary and democratic nation that takes seriously its legal obligations. If the political establishment cannot honour these commitments, then the Palestinian people, through their established leadership, can lodge a successful complaint to Israel's highest court of the land to seek a just and legal adjudication of this issue.

As a jurist, I respectfully advise to wage a judicial struggle against the executive branch of government in Israel with a view to making Israel's treaty obligations part and parcel of the terms of reference for the upcoming final-stage peace talks.

Mahmoud I. Mufti,
Amman.

King

(Continued from page 1)

was aimed at sending a message to Israel about the enormity of the danger facing the peace process, stressing that Jordan did not want a crisis in relations but wanted the peace process to go forward.

"The message was received," said the official.

The King said his warnings stemmed from his feelings of responsibility not just towards Jordanians but all in the region, including the Israeli people.

"When I spoke in Wash-

ington I spoke with the responsibility not just towards ourselves here in Jordan but towards everybody in the region, and that naturally includes the Israelis," said the King.

"We are at a very dangerous crossroads and I have great hope" that efforts will be consolidated to bring about permanent and just peace.

The King stressed that the positions adopted by Jordan do not follow the need of any other party.

Asked whether he will receive Mr. Netanyahu in Amman, the King said: "We hope that we will continue on the path of comprehensive peace in this region."

The King, who reportedly told Mr. Netanyahu that

he was "disappointed" with his policies, said there "is no doubt" that the implementation of what had been agreed on and what the Israeli government had committed itself to was very slow.

"But we hope the picture will change quickly in the future and the peace process will once again become serious," leading to the achievement of comprehensive peace, the King said.

Addressing Europe's role in the peace process, the King said the European role was positive, adding that his meeting with British Prime Minister John Major was constructive and frank.

The King was received upon arrival in Amman by

Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Prince Abdullah, Prince Faisal and other Royal family members. Mr. Kabariti, Upper House Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srouf, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, senior officials and the American and British ambassadors to Jordan.

Returning home along with the King were Royal Court Chief Awn Khawaneh, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, director of the National Security Council, and Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Talal, head of the International Press Office at the Royal Court.

Kabariti reassures industrialists

(Continued from page 1)

liamentary means are tuned to offering the best of support for the private sector in the broadest sense possible," he said.

"If there are snags in any laws or draft laws that impede the growth of Jordanian industries, then we are willing to address and remove them," he said.

At the same time, he said, the government expects Jordanian industries to secure international quality approvals such as ISO certifications for their products.

Mr. Kabariti emphasised that the government was giving utmost priority to improving the quality of Jordanian goods and services as well as industrial administration in the Kingdom. He offered to use the government's good offices with other governments with proven experience in this regard to secure their help for Jordanian industries.

Among other points raised by the ACI board during the meeting were:

— All raw materials and intermediary goods he exempted from customs duties so that the cost of the final product would allow Jordanian industries to compete successfully in markets abroad.

— Sales tax, which is now levied at the point of entry to Jordan as well as point of departure from factories, be charged at the point of sale. Also, the Ministry of Finance should not impose penalties for delays in payment of sales tax to the treasury.

"The ministry is already holding our deposits (a prerequisite for sales tax registration)," noted an ACI board member. "What is the justification of levying penalties from us for delayed payments of 2,000 or 3,000 dinars when the deposits are in tens of thousands of dinars?"

— Ministry of Supply officials are authorised to close down firms as well as to seize foodstuff from the market and factories. The ACI's complaint was that while it fully respects the need to ensure the quality

of food in the interest of public health and prevent exploitation of the market, it could not accept some of the "arbitrary actions" of ministry officials.

"We request that the order to close down any foodstuff company which is an ACI member be effective only if it is issued by a court of law or the minister of supply instead of the present situation where a department head could adopt such action without proper legal framework," said Mr. Abu Hassan.

The specific reference to the status of any company as an ACI member, he explained, came because the chamber can influence its members but cannot do so with non-members.

Also mentioned in this context was whether it was possible for Jordan to have a centralised organisation such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration whose certification is a prerequisite for the marketing of any foodstuff or medicine.

— Water, power and other infrastructure services be provided to industries at

preferential costs (This demand was opposed by Minister of Industry and Trade Ahul Ragheh, who pointed out that even at present charges the energy and water sectors not recovering their full costs).

— The government should take into consideration the interests of the industrial sector in the ongoing privatisation programme and ensure that privatisation of state entities do not lead to increasing unemployment.

Following the meeting, Mr. Abu Hassan described the results of the talks as highly satisfactory.

"The prime minister has promised to do whatever he could to help the industrial sector in a very responsive and positive spirit," he said. "He acknowledged that there were distortions in some areas and we hope to get rid of these distortions."

"The meeting itself was an emphatic reaffirmation of the importance that the government attaches to the Amman Chamber of Industry as a private sector institution that has a prominent role in the national economy," added Mr. Abu Hassan.

Mubarak

(Continued from page 12)

magazine yesterday.

Time: After a recent interview with you, an Israeli journalist said he discerned a "contained rage" in your disappointment with Netanyahu.

Mubarak: I am very, very, very upset. I am a man of peace. I would like to have peace with the Israelis. Egypt is the country that opened the door of peace. Without the initiative of the late President (Anwar) Sadat, I don't think a single Arab country would have had the courage to negotiate with the Israelis. They should realise this.

Time: Are you still giving Netanyahu a chance?

Mubarak: I cannot give him a chance for four years. In July I told him, "I'm telling the people to give you a chance. Please do something. It is very important for the public opinion not only in Egypt but in the whole Arab World." Then came August, September, October. No progress. What can I tell public opinion? "Give him a chance"? Till when?

Time: How do you read his intentions?

Mubarak: I had long talks with him. He promised me

that he was going to implement what was signed before. Nothing happened. I can't understand it. Is this because of differences in his cabinet? I told him, "Please start implementing the agreements. Start with Israeli army deployment from Hebron. Ease the closure of Israel to Palestinian workers." This is the only way to make people trust the new Israeli government."

Mind you, the Syrians are telling me, "How can you trust this man? Look at what he is doing with the Palestinians!"

Time: Is it so unreasonable for Netanyahu to request adjustments in light of Israeli security concerns?

Mubarak: I heard that he wants to change the whole agreement of Hebron. But Arafat will be unable to do this. It will mean the failure of Arafat among his people. If Arafat disappears, the Palestinians will not sit with folded arms. Violence may start, not only against the Israelis but against those who support the Israelis.

Time: Netanyahu says peace must come with security.

Mubarak: To freeze the peace talks — thinking you will maintain security first — you will keep working

on security until the end of the world. When you are implementing peace agreements, there will be violence. It happened with the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. There will be some sacrifices. But it is worth it.

Time: Why did you boycott the Middle East summit at the White House?

Mubarak: I know President Clinton was doing his best just to bring the two leaders together. But I knew that there would be no output from this meeting. I hope they can do something. The situation is boiling. The people are fed up all over the Arab World.

Time: What can Egypt do?

Mubarak: We are trying to give advice to the Israelis and persuade the Palestinians to move on the right track. You want me to pressure the Palestinians to accept something they don't accept? I can't put any pressure on either side.

Time: Would you advise the U.S. to pressure Israel?

Mubarak: I don't want to use the word pressure. The U.S. should persuade Israelis at least to respect the agreement. The U.S. is busy now with the elections. Let's wait and see after the elections.

Time: How are Egypt's

relations with Israel?

Mubarak: Strained. For one main reason: We are reflecting public opinion. The people are furious. Some elements in this country say, "Cut diplomatic relations." I am very keen for the process to move forward, not to freeze diplomatic relations.

Time: Will the Middle East economic summit in Cairo next month be able to produce results?

Mubarak: If Mr. Netanyahu moves forward and respects his words, it would be helpful. If not, maybe there will be some complications, tough discussions between the Israeli delegation and the other delegations. They have lots of trade in the Arab World. If we don't reach a definite peace, all this trade will stop. Israel is a Middle Eastern country. She cannot live isolated.

Time: Israelis complain about the "cold peace" with Egypt. Doesn't that justify Israel's security concerns?

Mubarak: Israel will be accepted when it gives the Arabs all the rights. Under Rabin and Shimon Peres, it made very good steps forward with the Arabs. Since Mr. Netanyahu came, everything is frozen. Everything is frozen.

Jordanian parties bury hatchet

(Continued from page 12)

disaster comes "very close" to the feelings of the people towards the peace process, said Mr. Masri.

"After the crisis in relations between Jordan and Israel and the statements of His Majesty the King I believe that the government's position is moving closer to that of the people," said Mr. Masri who is a member of the Lower House of Parliament.

But Mr. Masri believes the government must make use of the popular position which "supports the negotiating position and supports the government's points of view on the danger of Israeli policies."

In its reprisal of Israel, and even before the eruption of the crisis in relations with the Jewish state,

the King and the government have warned that failure to achieve progress on the Palestine track and Israel's failure to honour its commitments can only shatter the popular confidence in the peace process.

The demand by pro-peace treaty parties and groups to halt the normalisation of ties with Israel and their severe criticism of Mr. Netanyahu appears to vindicate this view.

Mr. Masri said the statement will drive this message across to the international community and show the disastrous impact the policies of Israel are having on public opinion vis-a-vis the peace process.

It will also show how strong the ties between the Jordanians and the Pales-

tinians and that peace cannot be consolidated with Jordan unless peace is achieved with the Palestinians.

The statement said that much when it stressed the historical ties between the Palestinians and Jordanians and interconnectedness of the Jordanian and the Palestinian national societies.

Mr. Masri described "as correct and right" the position of the Jordanian regime on Israeli policies, and restored to the people the confidence that "the official stand has finally come to be in harmony with the position of the people on Netanyahu."

Mr. Masri said the views of the King are also shared by that of U.S. President Bill Clinton who "could not" publicly express that

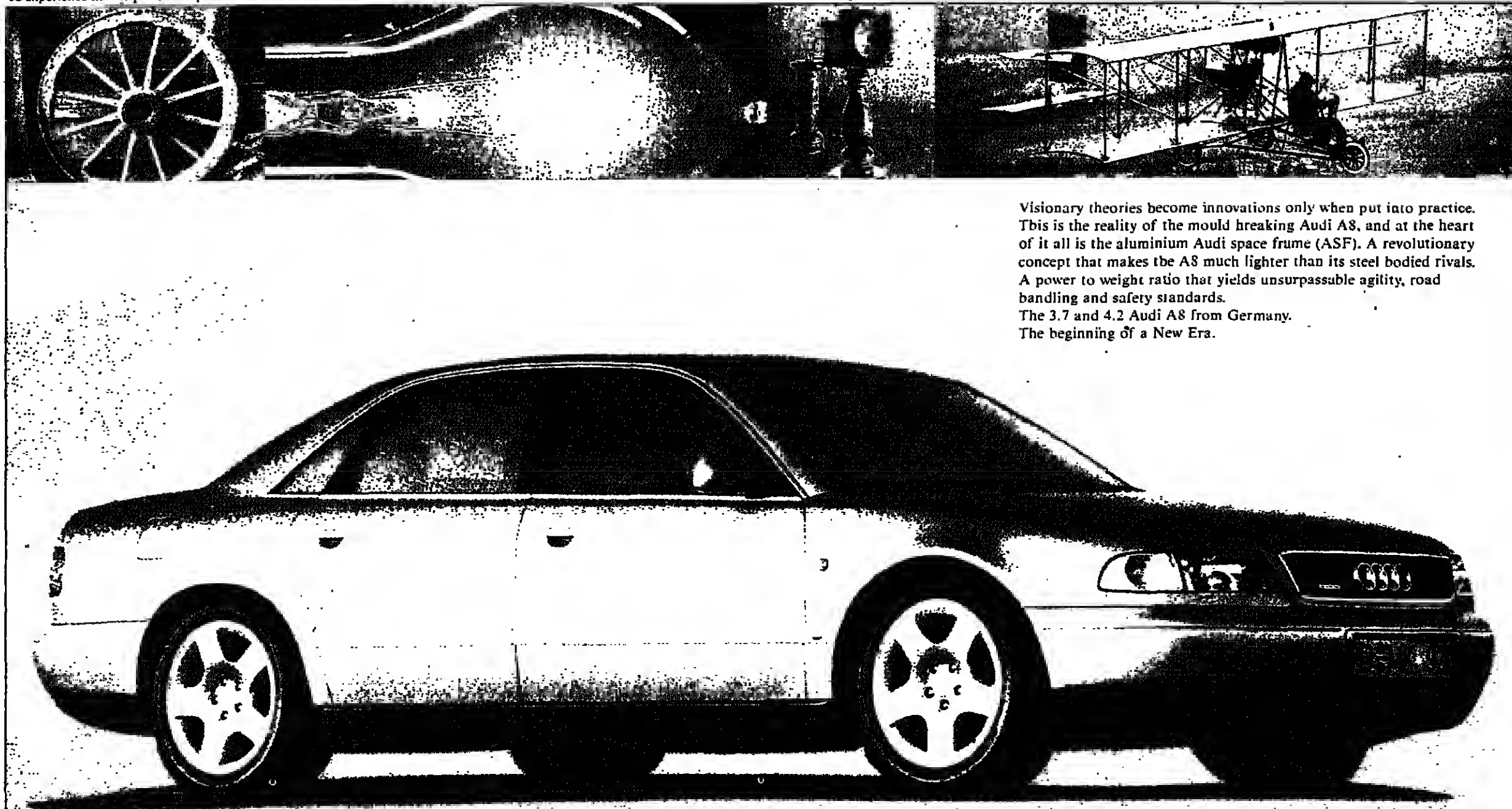
position because he was the host of the Washington summit and had to show even-handedness and because of electoral considerations.

"But if Mr. Clinton is reelected, the Jordanian position will be reflected in the pronouncements he will make on Netanyahu's policies," Mr. Masri predicted.

The former prime minister said that the groups which signed the statement will continue to coordinate and adopt stands on major developments through the permanent committee which they have formed.

He said efforts to bring about this consensus among Jordanian popular groups and parties, which he had initiated through Jerusalem societies here, started before the eruption of the crisis between Jordan and Israel and even before the Washington summit.

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Aqaba gas terminal project is still on, Jordan says

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan said Sunday it was not aware of any Israeli move to freeze a gas deal it signed with an American company and that the Kingdom was continuing discussions at technical level with Qatar and Israel on a gas terminal to be built at Aqaba as part of the project.

A spokesman for the U.S. firm, Enron Corporation, was also quoted as saying in the London-based Al Sharaq Al Awsat Arabic daily that Enron was told by Israel to go ahead with the agreement signed on the fringes of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference in Amman late last year.

The project involves two separate agreements. Under one accord signed with Qatar, Enron will develop a gasfield in the Gulf emirate and market the output. The second agreement calls for Israeli purchase of gas from Enron worth \$2 billion every year.

Jordan will host a \$300 million terminal at Aqaba to store and process the liquefied gas shipped from Qatar and pump it to Israel. The terminal will be a joint venture, with Enron providing 50 per cent of the project cost and Jordan and Israel 25 per cent each.

The reported Israeli move to freeze the project was said to have stemmed from hardline Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon. It came reportedly in retaliation for a Qatari suspension of all moves to normalise relations with the Jewish state until the government of Benjamin Netanyahu makes concrete progress in its negotiations with the Palestinians.

(Political observers here noted that Mr. Sharon was not authorised to take any such decision, given the limited powers to him by Mr. Netanyahu, who reluctantly appointed him as cabinet minister under political pressure in June).

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti was asked about the report of the freeze in the gas project on the sidelines of a meeting he held at the Amman Chamber of Industry. He replied: "Jordan is not aware of any such (Israeli) move. As far as we are concerned, the project is still on and our technical committees are continuing discussions on (the proposed terminal at Aqaba)."

Al Sharaq Al Awsat quoted a spokeswoman for Enron as saying that Israel had told Enron two weeks ago that there was no change in its commitment under the deal and that the company should go ahead with the project.

Oded Eran, a senior official in the Israeli government, said last month that despite the slower pace of the Middle East peace process after the election of Mr. Netanyahu, cooperation between Israeli businessmen and counterparts in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia was going ahead.

GCC cash reserves surge since Gulf war

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The cash reserves of six Arab Gulf states have surged by nearly 20 per cent since the end of the 1991 Gulf war as most of them sought to replenish their coffers, official figures have showed.

Kuwait was the only member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to record a sharp decline as it used part of its reserves abroad to repay debt and finance post-war reconstruction, according to the report.

The Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), citing official statistics, said the combined reserves of the six Arab Gulf states totalled around \$24.7 billion at the end of June compared with \$23.9 billion a year earlier.

At the end of 1992, the reserves, which include cash and gold with the International Monetary Fund, stood at around \$20.5 billion, one of their lowest

level in 15 years.

"Most Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), are boosting their reserves after a sharp decline over the past years. This will help them cover imports for several months," a Gulf banker said.

Saudi Arabia, the world's only oil superpower, recorded the biggest increase, with its cash reserves soaring to more than \$10 billion at the end of June from \$5.9 billion at the end of 1992.

The reserves are set to grow further by the end of the year as the kingdom is expected to earn over \$3 billion more than it had projected because of a surge in crude prices and higher non-oil exports.

Riyadh's cash reserves dipped to their lowest ever level in 1992 as it was forced to withdraw funds to finance a budget deficit and

contribute to an allied drive to retake Kuwait from Iraq invasion forces in February 1991.

Bankers said the kingdom paid more than \$50 billion for the U.S.-dominated multinational coalition from its oil export earnings and overseas assets.

This made it suffer from its worst budget deficit in 1991, when it stood at \$31.6 billion, nearly eight times its current shortfall.

During the oil boom of early 1980s, Saudi Arabia's cash reserves peaked at around \$25 billion, enough to cover imports for one year.

"The Saudi reserves will certainly be higher at the end of this year as it is giving priority to tackling its budget deficit and rebuilding the reserves given their importance in its economic reputation," a Saudi banker said.

"Saudi planners expect there will be sufficient

funds this year to bridge the gap and transfer part to the international reserves," he added.

Saudi Arabia, which controls more than a quarter of the world's oil, has projected spending at \$40 billion for 1996 but bankers expect its income from oil, petrochemicals and other exports to exceed \$43 billion.

In its monthly bulletin, the Bahraini-based ABC put the cash reserves of the UAE at 7.87 billion at the end of June compared with \$5.7 billion at the end of 1992.

Qatar and Bahrain also recorded increases while Oman's reserves dipped to about \$1.1 billion from \$1.98 billion.

Kuwait's reserves plummeted to \$3.75 billion from around \$5.1 billion.

Asian nations count cost of UAE expulsion of illegal workers

MANILA (AFP) — Government officials in several Asian countries are counting the cost of the forced mass exodus of some 200,000 Asian expatriates from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The oil-rich country ordered all illegal migrants after blaming them for a surge in crime. Some 132,000 fled before the original deadline of Sept. 30.

The deadline has now been extended to Oct. 31 and a further 70,000 are expected to leave this month.

Most of the illegal workers are from India, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.

The Philippines has no programme to assist returning migrants. Poe Grata, the head of the independent Manila labour monitor Migrant, told AFP after 6,600 Filipinos indicated they would be leaving before the first deadline.

Three out of four Filipinos working abroad are the sole breadwinners of their families, and "our experience shows that one month after they return home, they are broke," Mr. Grata said.

He expected the displaced UAE workers to be immediately on the job hunt in other countries, an observation echoed by foreign department spokesman Alejandro Vincente.

"If I know our compatriots, they would even now be in the process of finding employment in other countries," Mr. Vincente said.

Philippine President Fidel Ramos has reiterated his call for a global conference on migration and development.

He said he decries the fact that "conditions exacerbating poverty and generating migration flows, like unemployment and environmental degradation, continue to blight the world in spite of the expansion of the global economy."

More than 6,000 Pakistanis are known to have returned from the UAE since the expulsion order was given, and the loss in remittances would be "a huge amount," a government minister said.

"We do anticipate a decrease in foreign exchange remittances, a huge amount, but we cannot assess it yet," said Ghulam Akbar Lasi, Pak-

istani state minister for labour, manpower and overseas Pakistanis.

"But the UAE needs foreign workers. This measure is to regularise foreign workers. The workforce there will have to be replaced and many Pakistanis will go there again," he added.

Bangladesh officials have not yet put a figure on lost remittances from the 35,000 Bangladeshis to be deported from the UAE, but there are indications the figure could run into hundreds of millions of dollars.

In the year to June 30, Bangladesh earned nearly \$1.22 billion in remittances from 181,000 expatriate workers, mostly living in the Middle East and

South East Asia.

India's ambassador to the UAE, M.P.M. Mehon, said most of the 44,000 Indians returning were from Kerala state, a key labour supplier to the UAE.

But he said the exodus would not hit Kerala's economy, saying those leaving were a fraction of the state's population of 30 million.

Officials in Colombo, rather than dwell on financial losses, saw future benefits from the UAE move, with about 6,500 Sri Lankan illegal migrants returning from the Gulf state.

"We are not really affected by this clampdown," said Nissanka Wijeratne chairman of the Foreign

Employment Bureau. "This could be a blessing in disguise."

There had been overwhelming numbers of other Asians in the UAE. Now we may have a better chance of sending more of our workers to replace those being sent back," he pointed out.

Iran does not have official statistics on the number of its workers in the UAE nor the amount of money they remitted.

The country does not rely on such revenue and is not the least concerned

about lost remittances, observers said.

There are also many boat people sailing across the Gulf to Dubai to purchase goods and smuggle them back into Iran, they added.

Under the new law in the UAE, an illegal migrant can be jailed for three years and fined up to 30,000 dirhams (\$8,200).

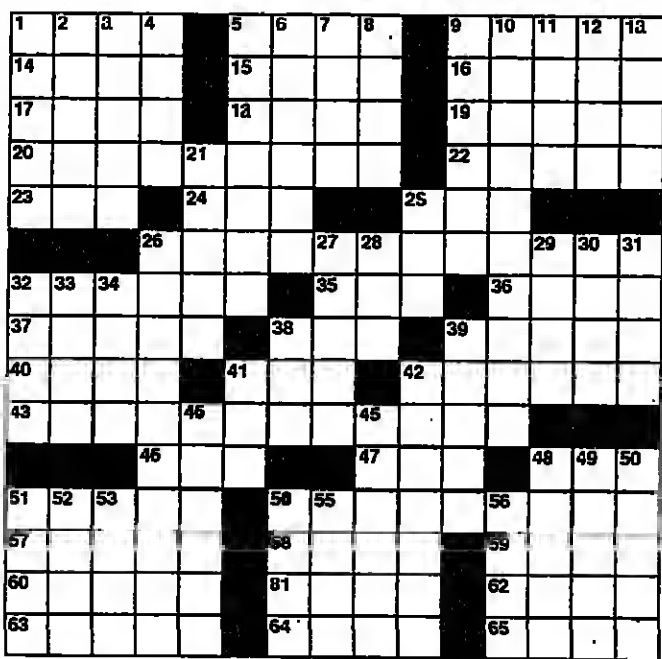
Boat owners taking illegal aliens into the country face up to 15 years in prison and fines of between 15,000 dirhams and 100,000 dirhams

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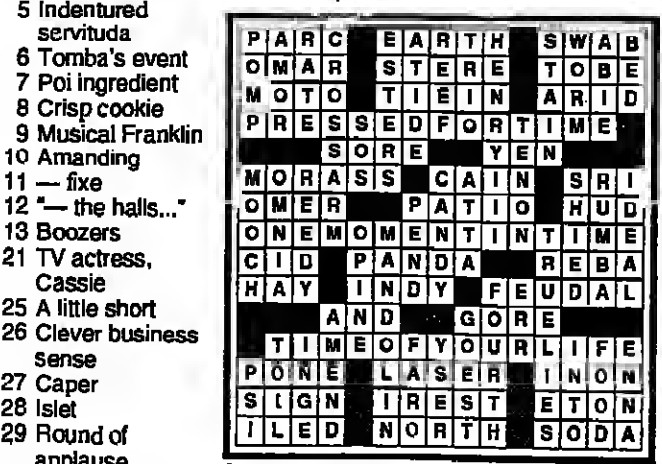
THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Type of lens
 - JFK jets
 - Boric acid
 - Killer whale
 - Distinctive style
 - Western show
 - Qum coin
 - evis
 - Build
 - Bed dive
 - "Enterprise" journeys
 - Carte start
 - "Much — About Nothing"
 - Ship, informally
 - Results of overeating
 - Algonquian chief
 - Yea opposite
 - Sonora snack
 - Flows
 - Pippen
 - Trivial
 - A Bancroft
 - Garland
 - Cassess
 - Agonizing
 - Track, persistently
 - Mature
 - Petrol
 - Fragrance
 - Plastic surgery procedure
 - Asian peninsula
 - Perry's craior
 - Moreno or Coolidge
 - Tilting
 - Original garden spot
 - "Thanks —!"
 - Taut
 - Mongrel dog
 - Small lake



by Randall J. Hartman

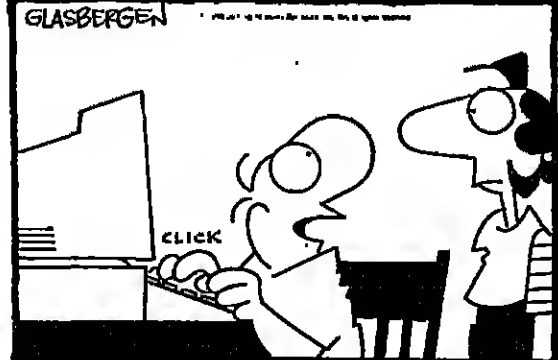
- DOWN**
- Anthony Quinn role
 - Bay window
 - Florida citrus center
 - Shopping complex



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- Upset
- Party single
- Japanese native
- Coin
- D.C. denizen
- Cash
- Part of a journey
- A — of the imagination
- Turn
- Prince of Denmark
- Cunning
- Paul Newman, e.g.
- Use a rink
- Card game
- Nat. of song
- go brag!
- Pakistan language
- Streetcar

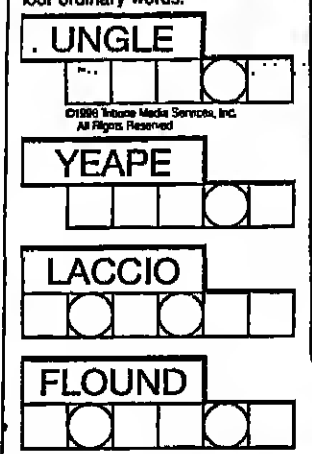
THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



"You and I hardly talk anymore. You should join my online chat group!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



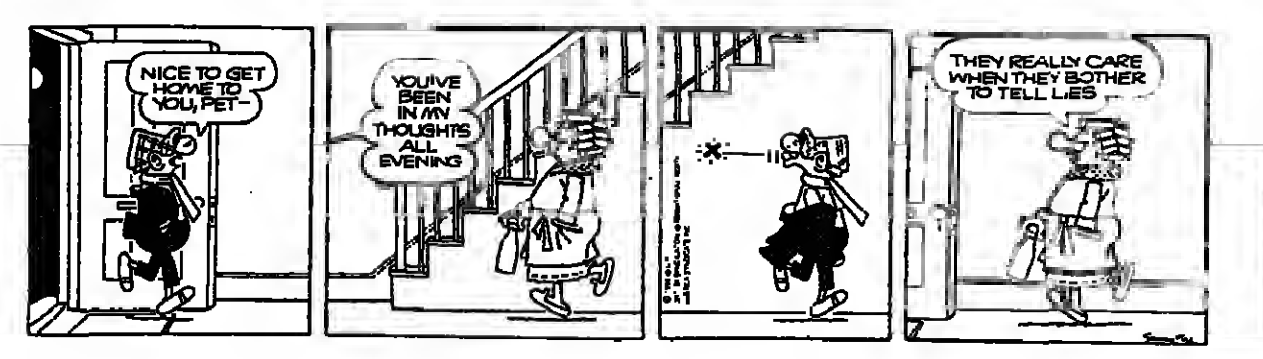
Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: TONIC CATCH DAMPEN AUTUMN
Answer: What the military prisoners considered their bonds — THE CHAIN OF COMMAND

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get rid of that old system today which prevents you from getting your fine talents across to others. Later tonight you can get together with close friends and see a play or movie and have fun together.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Show that you are thoughtful and kind today, so do whatever will delight those you dwell with. This evening can be spent with your loved ones at home relaxing to good music, television or just having good conversations.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get busy with daily routines today and steer clear of an outside fellow associate who is very limiting to you. This evening can be spent with mate having a romantic time together with no other distraction.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't waste time today at small duties when you can devote it to more profitable matters. Later tonight will be good for you to meet with close friends and spend this time in activities which are fun and delight for everyone.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Look into new outlets today which can be more profitable in the days ahead and bring you greater success. Later tonight can be special for your loved ones by seeking out recreational activities which are fun to do.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your personal goals can be gained today with relative ease, so getting away from home for a while will help. Later tonight you can seek out the assistance of knowledgeable people and gain their advice for whatever career activities.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Let your friends be more aware of what you desire in life today and they can be very helpful to you. This evening you can go out on the town with special friends and have a fun time together in recreational activities.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A new outlet on some public affair can be utilized today for its betterment, so be philosophical. Tonight you can be with fellow associate and devise a plan of action to complete a current project and be quite successful.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Make new friends of real character today and they can be of help to you, so thereby you can get great results. Later tonight can be spent relaxing for in the days ahead you will be quite busy on career activities.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have to handle a task today which is puzzling, so make the correct decisions and everything will turn out successful. Be more enthused this evening with your mate and there will be good time for you both.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be with a clever fellow associate today and forget that person who wastes so much of your time. Go along with new ideas which are presented and you will be prosperous as a result of the outcome in the days ahead.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Forget the world at this time and go after personal aims which are important. Delight your mate this evening by presenting him or her with flowers or chocolate and thereby you will make this person extremely happy.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline.

BADEA directors to meet in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The board of directors of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) opens its 84th meeting at the Four Grand Hotel in Amman Wednesday with the participation of delegates from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Egypt, Oman and Bahrain.

The discussions will cover topics related to financing a number of projects in

African countries and to review the achievements so far in the bank's third 1995-1999 development plan.

The bank was created in accordance with a resolution issued by the Sixth Arab Summit Conference held in Algiers in 1973 with the objective of promoting economic development in Africa.

The holding of this session takes place as BADEA is starting the second year of its third five year plan (1995-1999) which was approved

by the bank's Board of Governors in its meeting held in Cairo in April of 1994.

BADEA, whose current capital is \$145.8 million, has a total commitment for the plan amounting to \$500 million.

The plan's directives included intervention in financing social projects, participation in the capital of national African development institutions and support of the private sector in the African countries.

Government readies law on preventing monopoly

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has finalised a new draft law to prevent commercial monopoly and ensure that all consumer items are available at competitive prices, according to a report in Al Aswaq Arabic daily.

The 18-article law, known as "monopoly prevention law", encourages legitimate competition as a requisite for economic growth and for protecting the interests of consumers and merchants alike.

Article 5 of the draft law prohibits any individual or group behaviour precluding

or obstructing free and legitimate competition. Such behaviour includes collective agreements to fix prices of certain items, or manipulating contracts or reaching agreements to boycott certain clients or to ban a certain agent or agents to compete with them.

The law also prohibits storing or destroying of consumer goods with a view to raising their prices.

The law provides for the establishment of a three member "monopoly prevention authority", headed

by a judge, and including two members, one of whom should be a judge. The third member will be nominated by the cabinet in accordance with a recommendation by minister of industry and trade.

The authority which will have a five year non-renewable mandate will enjoy judicial immunity. It will maintain accurate records on complaints and or information about violations of the law. It will be entitled to impose financial penalties ranging between JD 10,000 and JD 50,000 on violators.

To make sure that projects continue to qualify for the licences offered to them, the authority shall carry out periodical reviews every three months and shall undertake reviews from time to time when it is established that the licensing conditions are no longer there or if the project fails to meet the criteria and obligations made under the licensing, or when it is confirmed that the project owners have provided wrong or misleading information to the authority to obtain the licences.

In a related development,

the Consumer Protection Society made some amendments and comments on the monopoly prevention law and enclosed them in a memo addressed to minister of industry and trade for inclusion in the final law, according to Jordan News Agency, Petra. The amendments call for increasing the penalties on violators of the law in a bid to change their negative behaviour and practices. The society also argued that it should be allowed to join membership of the authority.

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Currency	USD	DM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF
US Dollar	1.5300	0.6347	1.2525	111.35	1.3520	1622.30	1.7170
DE Mark	0.6538	1.0000	0.4144	0.8185	0.8634	994.64	1.1222
GB Sterling	1.5758	1.5758	1.0000	1.7538	2.1302	2398.54	2.7053
CH Franc	0.7984	1.2211	0.5662	88.88	1.0790	1214.92	136.82
JP Yen	0.0090	1.3734	0.5694	1.1243	1.2136	13.87	154.13
CA Dollar	0.7396	1.3414	0.5694	1.1243	1.2136	13.87	154.13
IT Lira	0.0007	1.0048	0.4165	0.8632	0.8877	11.27	3.4001
NL Guilder	0.5824	0.907	0.3693	72.93	0.7471	886.24	3.0148
FR Franc	0.1931	0.2953	0.1224	24.1772	0.2610	33.14	33.1400

Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	24.65	24.25
W. Texas	24.60	24.25
Bony	24.65	24.25
Dubai	21.49	21.62
UL Gas	213.00	215.00

Metal	High	Low
Gold (oz/zt)	381.25	381.75
Silver (oz/zt)	5.04	5.06
Platinum (oz/zt)	385.3	386.3
CU (3 Months)	1335	1338
AL (3 Months)	1941	1945
Zinc (3 Months)	1023	1028
Lead (3 Months)	749	754
NI (3 Months)	7140	7170

Commodity	Last	Deliver
Coffee (lb/zt)	121.67	Spot
Cocoa (lb/zt)	1459	Spot
Sugar (lb/zt)	331.5	Spot
Wheat (lb/zt)	159	Spot
Soya (lb/zt)	22.99	Spot
Yea (lb/zt)	115	Spot
Barley (lb/zt)	2.57	Spot
Rice (lb/zt)	485	Spot

Record number of initial public offerings pump billions into U.S. firms

NEW YORK (AFP) — The number of companies making their debut on the stock market has broken all records this year, pumping billions of dollars into emerging industries and nourishing the American capitalist juggernaut.

From January to September, initial public offerings (IPOs) helped companies raise \$35.1 billion, beating the all-time full-year record of \$34 billion established in 1993, according to the research firm Securities Data.

After a dry spell during the stock market crisis at the beginning of the summer, the IPO market took off again and some \$18 billion worth of additional issues are currently being prepared.

In the past few years, initial public offerings — meaning the first time a company decides to offer stock — have become an essential ingredient in the vitality of American capi-

talism.

These IPOs offer the promise of a lucrative compensation to the founders of companies and stimulate the entrepreneurial spirit.

They also pump capital into new industries and help fuel the growth of entire new sectors when listings are successful, such as that experienced by Netscape Communications (navigation software) or Yahoo! (Internet searching software).

In five years, some 3,000 firms were introduced this way onto the stock exchange, raising \$200 billion.

A little more than a third of the capital raised is injected into large firms that for one reason or another — say, family ownership or affiliations with other large companies — had never offered publicly traded stock.

But the rest of the booty has been showered on a panoply of firms, from the

"start-ups" of Silicon Valley to obscure companies offering a variety of products and services.

Besides well-known names such as Guess Jeans and Planer Hollywood, 1996 has seen the stock-market birth of hundreds of firms of all types.

When Yahoo! debuted in April, the company had 36 employees and virtually no sales. Yet its stock offering instantly gave it a one billion dollars market capitalisation.

Another, less well-known example was the offering by Interactive Flight Technologies. It hit the market after having convinced Wall Street of the potential of in-flight electronic casinos. Since the offering, the company signed an \$80 million contract with the Swiss airline Swissair.

Indeed the demand for IPOs has been such that it has become easy to raise capital on the strength of an idea or "concept", with-

out much, or even any, operating history.

In 1995, 37 per cent of the companies launched on the stock market had still not completed their first fiscal year, a ratio that increased to 56 per cent in the first quarter of 1996, according to the magazine Institutional Investor.

Last spring, IPOs were coming so fast that the only brake "seemed to be the number of conference rooms at fidelity and the number of limousines available for road shows (company presentations)," said Howard Anderson, president of the Yankee Group, a market research firm.

Indeed, a new breed of entrepreneurs have come into being.

Fuelled by venture capital, they identify a concept, start a company, sell the idea to Wall Street and then pocket their profits two years later, as soon as the

securities laws allow them to.

Then they find another idea and start the process all over again.

The rise of the Internet, cellular telephone communications and multimedia software have proven to be a rich vein into which entrepreneurs have tapped.

Still, some fear it is all happening too fast.

"The expansion in the sheer number of companies has outpaced the absorption rate of new technologies," warns Mr. Anderson.

He reckons that a new company linked to Internet-related business is created every 48 hours, and that by next year, there will be nine wireless communication providers for each metropolitan area.

This, according to Mr. Anderson, will lead to a price war — and a bag full of empty promises made to investors.

Moroccan phosphates firm in \$220m Pakistani deal

RABAT (R) — Morocco's Office Chérifien des Phosphates (OCP), the world's main exporter of phosphates and by-products, has signed a \$220 million deal with Pakistan to set up a fertiliser plant in Karachi.

An OCP statement, carried by the official news agency MAP, said the joint venture agreement was signed last week with Al Noor Fertilizer Industries Ltd.

The deal was part of OCP's new policy of forging

international partnerships, it said.

OCP will keep 10 per cent of the capital and meet all the plant's demands for phosphoric acid from Morocco which at present prices represented turnover of some \$80

million.

The \$220 million plant, due to come on stream in 1998, will have a daily production capacity of 1,300 tonnes of fertiliser, 1,200 tonnes of urea and 955 tonnes of ammonia.

OCP will provide technical and marketing advice and the Manila-based Asian Development Bank, and Britain's Export Credit Guarantee Department will take part in financing the deal, the statement said.

Dahabi outlines steps to remedy RJ weaknesses

** ACCORDING TO the president of Royal Jordanian (RJ), the airline can be put back on the right track by implementing readjustment measures in two directions: The first related to capital, indebtedness and liquidity. The second, described as tactical, is related to internal affairs in the institution.

"The first direction can be pursued by adopting the recommendations of a privatisation committee and a foreign consultant to increase the capital, sell the planes and lease them again, reschedule the debts and cover previous losses from government funds" RJ's President and Chief Executive Nader Dahabi pointed out.

On the second direction, Mr. Dahabi indicated that the employees were asked to write their views and plans in order that they be implemented with conviction instead of having programmes imposed on the staff from the senior management. A strategic planning programme followed whereby various incentives were given to the staff to boost productivity. Other steps included training of personnel, restructuring the departments, and facilitating and simplifying working procedures.

Mr. Dahabi said that the RJ offices in Copenhagen and Australia were closed and local representatives were appointed instead to cut expenditure. Furthermore many station manager posts outside were cancelled and local staff were appointed instead at lower costs. He also indicated that RJ was in the process of substituting accountants with local staff and that Karachi was the first station where the change has started.

"A review was conducted on all previous contracts related to ground service at all stations as well as supply, technical services, hotels and insurance contracts," the president said adding that large savings were achieved and, consequently, costs were reduced and operational profitability was improved. RJ also reviewed the agreements with agents overseas and their commissions were reduced.

Mr. Dahabi said RJ was now preparing job descriptions in order to organise the various departments and "put the right employee in the right position." RJ is also seeking to attract better qualified persons from the local market according to required specifications.

Mr. Dahabi concluded by listing the following five areas in which RJ hopes to achieve in the future:

- 1) Transforming RJ into a public shareholding company to operate on a commercial basis and be able to compete on flexible ground.
- 2) Modernising the fleet of aircraft especially those older than 13 years and operating on long routes.
- 3) Restructuring the airline and acquiring the latest techniques in the air travel industry to boost productivity.
- 4) Forming strategic alliance with U.S. and Far East airlines to improve earnings and services.
- 5) Transferring RJ-managed investments to the private sector or joint ventures such as the Training Centre, the duty free shop, the supply department, Royal Tours and the Maintenance Centre (Al Ra'i + Al Dstour + Al Aswaq).

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Hill wins Japan GP to clinch World Drivers' Championship

SUZUKA, Japan (R) — Two years after he missed out in the final race in Australia, Damon Hill finally won the world drivers' championship Sunday when he drove to a masterful victory at the Japanese Grand Prix.

The 36-year-old Englishman, taking part in his final race with the Williams team before leaving to join TWR Arrows next year, led from start to finish as he cruised to a triumph that made him the first son of a former champion to lift the crown.

He actually became champion 15 laps from the end of the 52-lap race when his only title rival and Williams teammate Jacques Villeneuve of Canada crashed out, his right rear wheel having worked loose. It bounced off the car, overtook him and then cleared one safety fence before coming to rest safely by a second.

The Williams team were unable to offer any immediate explanation for the loose wheel but it was unlikely that Villeneuve could have taken the title as he was in fifth place at the time and needed to win to stand any chance of overtaking Hill in the overall point standings. Hill's father Graham won

the title in 1962 and 1968 and inspired his son's ambition to follow him into motor racing.

Hill, who came home 1.8 seconds ahead of his big rival Michael Schumacher in a Ferrari, said he felt a great sense of relief at finally clinching the title after two failed attempts at wrapping it up in Monza and Estoril.

Asked how he felt, he said: "I feel like a rocket which is just taking off. It is fantastic, to win a Grand Prix and to win the championship is unbelievable."

He said he dedicated his victory, the 21st of his career in his 67th race, to the Williams team "but I will be keeping the championship for myself."

Later, he thanked his family and friends, and particularly his wife Georgie, for their support through the year.

"I can hardly wait to get back to my children but it is especially Georgie I would like to thank for this championship," said Hill.

"She has stood by me the whole way and has been a tremendous strength to me throughout the season and all the time I have been racing in Formula One."

Hill finished the world

drivers' championship with 97 points, 19 points clear of Villeneuve.

The Canadian was disappointed but said: "I am very happy for Damon. He drove a perfect race and he has worked very hard and driven very well all year for this."

Finn Mika Hakkinen in a McLaren came home third ahead of Austrian Gerhard Berger in a Benetton. Briton Martin Brundle in a Jordan and German Heinz-Harald Frentzen, the man who is replacing Hill at Williams next year.

Hill drove a faultless race and for the first time since the German Grand Prix in July he managed to avoid bad luck and mechanical problems. But for Villeneuve it was the opposite, his wheel problem being the first mechanical failure to cause him to retire from a race this year.

Schumacher's drive to second place ensured that Ferrari leapt ahead of rivals Benetton to take second place behind Williams in the constructors' championship.

Hill, who had a faultless run with two trouble-free pitstops after surviving an early pass attempt from Berger, was euphoric after the race. He was soaked in champagne on the podium by Schumacher, who was the first man to congratulate him when he climbed from his car.

"There are too many people to thank and I don't know where to start," he said. "Certainly none of the other drivers in the champi-

onship. This victory is my leaving present to Williams. It is for all of them. We are signing off with the team and I am really grateful to them."

He listed a long list of Williams people, friends and supporters, before adding: "I would like to thank everyone who has been on the team, and on my side, all season. I think that includes the majority of the British population — and quite a few others."

"It is a perfect ending, a fairytale ending. It is a terrific feeling for me. I have worked with the team for three years to achieve this and it is a tremendous relief finally to have won the championship and ended all the waiting, the training, the preparation and the sleepless nights."

When Hill heard that Villeneuve was out of the race he said he told himself: "This is all very well. Hill, but now you have got to stay calm and see it through to the finish." I decided to drive nice and easy which is what I did all through the race, keeping a nice margin on Michael and Mika."

He added: "There were about 15 laps to go when I got the message that Jacques was out. As soon as I heard, although I knew I was world champion, I wanted to concentrate on the race. If you can believe this, it was a matter of putting the championship out of my mind and concentrating on winning the race, which is what I really, really wanted to do."

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YANNAH HIRSCH ©1995 Toluca Media Services, Inc.

CHECK AND MATE

North-South vulnerable, North deals.

NORTH
♠ 4 4 2
♥ J 8 5
♦ 10 5
♣ K Q J 9 2

EAST
♠ K 9 8 7 5
♥ K 10 4
♦ K 8 3
♣ A 10

SOUTH
♠ A Q J
♥ A Q 6
♦ A J 9 7 6
♣ 5 3

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
Pass Pass Pass Pass
1st Pass Pass 2nd Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

With just one more entry to the North hand, three no trump would have been a simple contract. South found an ingenious way to overcome the problem.

Frankly, we don't like North's invitation to raise to two no trump, even though that represents to the point-count value of the hand. Three no trump will probably depend on whether or not the clubs run, not whether South has a random jack or queen in reserve for the overcall. So on a good day North

should simply jump to three no trump. If North is playing out of luck, then a pass has much to recommend it.

West led the ten of spades, taken by the jack in the closed hand. A club to the jack was allowed to hold, and South made use of the dummy entry to run the ten of diamonds to West's queen. Another spade was returned, taken by the queen. Declarer was at the recorders.

To lead another club would be futile, yet the odds were against the king of diamonds falling under the ace. In that event, declarer would have only three tricks in spades and diamonds and one each in clubs and hearts before the opponents had five tricks. South found a picture-book solution.

At trick five, declarer led the queen of hearts from dummy. If East won this trick and knocked out the last spade stopper, declarer would be able to reach dummy with the jack of hearts to repeat the diamond finesse, and collect an overtrick via three spades, two hearts, four diamonds and a club.

Refusing to take the king of hearts proved no better — declarer's fine play had raked in a trick and a tempo. Now declarer was able to cash the ace of diamonds and surrender a diamond, and come to nine tricks with three spades, two hearts, three diamonds and a club.

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Yankees beat Orioles...

BALTIMORE (R) — The New York Yankees beat the Baltimore Orioles at their home game Saturday, using the long ball to score an 8-4 victory and move within one win of the world series.

Darryl Strawberry homered twice and Bernie Williams and Paul O'Neill also homered to give the Yankees a commanding 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven American League championship series.

"Tonight was a big night for me. I went out and did a good job. I'm just happy about it," said Strawberry, the troubled slugger whose career was rescued from oblivion when the Yankees signed him this season.

The New York Bullpen worked its magic once again as four Yankee relievers combined for six scoreless innings after starter Kenny Rogers left in the fourth.

Reliever David Weathers got the victory. He allowed three hits over 2 2/3 innings as the Yankees won for the first time without trailing in eight post-season games.

"The big reason we beat them is the pitching," said Yankees manager Joe Torre. "The Bullpen is carrying the torch for us."

The Orioles broke the 1961 Yankees' record for most home runs in a season this year, but they managed just one solo shot from Chris Hoiles in the third inning Saturday.

New York, in contrast, took rookie starter Rocky Coppins long three times in the first four innings.

"I made three bad pitches today and every one of them left the park. I don't know if that's because of inexperience or not," said Coppins, who was tagged for five runs and six hits over 5 1/3 innings in his playoff debut.

Williams continued to wield a big bat for the Yankees. He launched his fifth post-season homer — a two-run blast in the first inning — to stake New York to a 2-0 lead.

In the top of the eighth, Cecil Fielder delivered an RBI groundout to give the Yankees a two-run cushion. Strawberry then smacked his second homer of the night, a two-out, two-run shot off Armando Benitez that made it 8-4.

The Orioles tagged New York reliever Mariano Rivera for three straight

singles to load the bases with none out in the bottom of the eighth. But Baltimore failed to score a run.

Rivera struck out Hoiles and Brady Anderson, who had 50 home runs during the regular season, and then got Todd Zeile to pop out, ending the threat. John Wengert pitched a perfect ninth to seal the win.

"We loaded up the bases against Rivera and he turned the valve up a notch," said Baltimore manager Dave Johnson.

In all, Baltimore left 10 men stranded on base as New York raised its record to 8-0 this year at Camden Yards with their second successive post-season win here.

The Yankees need only win one of the next three games to reach the world series for the first time in 15 years. Baltimore must sweep the last three to move on.

"I think we might play a little looser, believe it or not, tomorrow," said Zeile. "No one really expects us to win. It's still a possibility. It could come down to Game 7."

Wihdat, Hussein resume match today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Premier League titleholders Al Wihdat Monday play Al Hussein in one of three matches left before the first leg of the competition concludes Oct. 18.

The controversial Wihdat-Hussein replay match will be played with no spectators after the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) ruled that the match, halted last week after technical irregularities in the 42nd minute with Al Wihdat leading 1-0, would be resumed with the same score.

Al Wihdat are now fourth after their 2-0 win over Al Ramtha and still have a match left against Al Faisali Friday.

Al Hussein are third with 16 points in the ten-team standings.

Al Ahli who drew with Al Qadissieh 2-2 last week are now back atop the standings with 16 points. Al Faisali are second after their 4-1 win over Qozazi who still have a match against Shabab Al Hussein Wednesday.

Qadissieh knocked out of Jordan Cup

The second of the Kingdom's soccer competitions also kicked off this week as Al Qadissieh became the first of the Premier League teams to be eliminated when they lost to Al Jalil 3-1.

The knockout competition includes Premier League and first division teams playing in four groups.

In other matches, Sarih beat Russeifah 2-1, Zarqa beat Thar Ras 2-0. Al Turra beat Al Karmel 5-4 while Talbiah beat Manshieh 8-3. Al Awdah beat Sahab by default.

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Ahli	9	4	4	1	20	11	16
Faisali	8	4	4	0	15	6	16
Hussein	8	4	4	0	13	6	16
Wihdat	7	4	3	0	12	4	15
Ramtha	9	4	3	2	11	7	15
Qadissieh	9	2	5	2	14	14	11
S. Hussein	1	4	3	8	12	7	7
Jazireh	9	1	3	5	4	10	6
Kufroum	9	0	4	5	5	19	4
Qozazi	8	0	2	6	6	19	2

* Shabab Al Hussein play Qozazi Wednesday while Al Wihdat meet Al Faisali Friday in the league's two postponed matches

Hingis wins first professional title

FILDERSTADT (AFP) — Swiss tennis prodigy Martina Hingis won her first professional title Sunday beating Anke Huber of Germany 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 in the \$450,000 women's indoor tournament.

Hingis, 16 and ranked 10th in the world, beat the 21-year-old fifth seed in an hour and 36 minutes in a pulsating match — capping a week when she has beaten Spain's world number two Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and Olympic champion Lindsay Davenport of the United States.

Hingis, beaten finalist at the Italian Open this year where she beat world number one Steffi Graf, mixed her game up well against Huber, twice a winner here, playing excellent groundshots from the baseline and then charging in to volley with devastating effect.



Martina Hingis

Chapple-Hyam makes triumphant return to Longchamp

PARIS (AFP) — English trainer Peter Chapple-Hyam made a triumphant return to Longchamp here Sunday as Revogue won the 130,000 pound (\$200,000) group one grand criterium — only a week after his Polarix flight had been put down in the Arc de Triomphe.

Chapple-Hyam, who has also seen two of his previous three Longchamp winners disqualified, had asked last Sunday why he persisted in coming to Longchamp — Revogue answered in

the most positive style. Revogue, already winner of the Group One Prix Salamandre here on September 15, quickened impressively under John Reid and came home two lengths clear of Marjoram with another English challenger King Sound six lengths back in third.

"It was always going easily. Once I pulled him out and asked him to quicken the response was immediate," Reid said.

Leading English bookmaker William Hill

responded by cutting the Robert Sangster owned two-year-old colt from 10-1 to 7-1 for next season's classic, Bahare, owned by Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum, remains favourite at 5-1.

Ladbroke's have shortened Revogue to 8-1 from 10-1 for the Guinness.

"Despite landing his second group one win, Revogue has only confirmed his position as second favourite behind Bahare," said Ladbroke's spokesman Ian Wassell.

...while Cards overcome Braves

ST LOUIS (R) — Ron Gant belted a pair of home runs against his former club Saturday to lead the St. Louis Cardinals to a 3-2 victory over the Atlanta Braves and a two games to one lead in the National League championship series.

In the first post-season game at Busch Stadium since 1987, more than 56,700 fans — most decked in Cardinals Red — watched with delight as St. Louis grabbed the edge in the best-of-seven series against the defending world series champions.

The defeat marked the first time the Braves have fallen behind in games in their last five playoff series. Game 4 is Sunday night in St. Louis.

"We're not about to panic," said Braves manager Bobby Cox. "We've certainly got the type of pitching that can win three of the next four."

The unheralded St. Louis pitching staff came through again as Donovan Osborne pitched seven-plus strong innings before the bullpen got the Cards out of an eighth-inning jam.

Gant provided all the offense, a performance made sweeter coming against the

team that released him in 1993 after he busted up his leg in an off-season motorcycle accident.

Gant hit a two-run homer in the first inning and a solo blast in the sixth off Atlanta starter Tom Glavine.

"It's a great feeling," Gant said. "I had a lot of things happen to me in my career while I was with the Braves, a lot of good and a lot of bad. You know there's a lot of emotion running through me when I play this ballclub."

The Braves grabbed the lead early when Marquis Grissom scored on a sacrifice fly by Chipper Jones in the top of the first inning.

The Atlanta lead was short-lived however. Royce Clayton opened the bottom of the inning with a single to center and one out later. Gant powered a 1-1 pitch over the left-field wall for a 2-1 St. Louis lead.

The tight contest remained 2-1 until Gant led off the sixth by driving a 1-2 pitch from Glavine over the wall in center for his fifth career post-season homer and a 3-1 lead.

Glavin gave up seven hits and three runs in six innings, but it was just two bad pitches that cost him the game.

Mark Petkovsek relieved Osborne and allowed a Javy Lopez single off the glove of third baseman Gary Gaetti to load the bases. But the Braves were held to just one run in the inning on Jermaine Dye's sacrifice fly that brought Jones home.

Cardinals manager Tony La Russa, as he has all season, went deep into the bullpen to secure the win.

Rick Honeycutt threw just one pitch in the ninth and retired Ryan Klesko on a groundout. Veteran closer Dennis Eckersley then came on and struck out Grissom and got Lenke to fly out to the warning track in center to end the game.

Eckersley has finished all five playoff wins for the Cardinals this October and has four saves.

"Winning two games is nice but we still got more work to do," Osborne said. "Beating them again twice isn't going to be easy."

The Braves may have the deepest and most feared pitching staff in the Majors, but the Cardinals' hurlers have earned respect after consecutive wins over the world champions.

Carbajal retains title, Chavez wins on return to ring

ANAHEIM, California (R) — Michael Carbajal made a successful second defence of his International Boxing Federation junior flyweight title on Saturday when he knocked out Tomas Rivera in the fifth round.

Carbajal was never in trouble against Rivera as he improved to 43-2 with 27 knockouts and positioned himself for a possible showdown with unbeaten World Boxing Council Strawweight champion Ricardo Lopez.

Three-time former champion Julio Cesar Chavez returned to the ring for the first time since he was beaten to a bloody pulp by Oscar De La Hoya in four

rounds on June 7. Chavez was in control throughout and pounded Gamache with a barrage of punches in the eighth round.

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Jordan may deport illegal aliens and ban foreigners from jobs in some sectors

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan might resort to deportation of guest workers and impose bans on foreigners from several professions as a means to reduce unemployment among Jordanians, a source at the Ministry of Labour said Sunday.

Such drastic measures would be under consideration to counteract the increasing number of illegal foreign workers and the mounting unemployment in the Kingdom, the source told the Jordan Times.

The ministry is considering deporting foreign workers "very soon" to bring the number of foreigners working in the Kingdom down to 100,000, added the source, who did not want to be identified.

Furthermore, new measures might be taken to ban foreign workers from undertaking jobs in sectors such as engineering, nursing, management, accounting, typing, education and hairdressing.

Unofficial statistics estimate that the number of foreign workers in Jordan rose to over 400,000 in 1995.

Official statistics show that unemployment among Jordanians is nearing 15 per cent, but unofficial estimates say that it is reaching up to 20 per cent.

Deportation and ban on foreign workers from some

sectors could "relieve the pressure on the national labour market," the source said.

Recent reports said the ministry planned to reduce the number of foreign nurses at 40 private hospitals.

According to the reports, foreign nurses accept low wages and difficult work conditions, while many Jordanian nurses are compelled to work in Gulf states.

Competition between Jordanian and non-Jordanian workers in nursing as well as other professions, results in a generally low level of salaries, analysts say. They add that such circumstances could hinder the approval of a recent proposal to fix a minimum wage for Jordanian workers.

A minimum wage would put Jordanians at a disadvantage in the labour market, as employers could hire foreigners at lower costs, observers noted.

In addition, 1995 statistics released by the Ministry of Labour suggest the need for urgent actions to check illegal workers.

According to the statistics, only 94,335 foreigners currently working in the Kingdom hold valid work permits.

If unofficial statistics fixing the total of foreign workers at 400,000 are correct, then only one in every four foreigners would be

legally working in the Kingdom.

Of those who held valid work permits in 1995, 90.3 per cent came from Arab countries, mainly Egypt (85.3 per cent), and were employed mainly in the agricultural, mining and construction sectors.

Ministry of Labour statistics show that Egyptians (80,480) accounted for 85.3 per cent of the total number of legal foreign workers in 1995, while Sri Lankans (4,234) and Filipinos (1,459) accounted respectively for 4.5 and 1.5 per cent of the total number of foreign labourers.

A look at the bulletin's tables also contradicts the common belief that all foreign workers in Jordan are poorly educated.

According to the bulletin, while 85 per cent of the Filipinos and 99 per cent of the Sri Lankans legally working in Jordan are illiterate, 38 per cent of the workers from Arab countries (32,336) hold degrees beyond the secondary school (diplomas, degrees and post-graduate degrees).

As for Westerners, 368 out of 548 Europeans working in Jordan have a bachelor's degree, 18 masters, and 33 doctorates.

Eight out of the 85 U.S. citizens working in Jordan have a doctorate, and only seven have not finished their secondary school studies.



Afghan fighters loyal to northern General Abdul Rashid Dostum pile sandbags at a defensive line in the Salang Pass, about 90 kilometres north of Kabul on Saturday (Reuters photo)

Masood retakes more towns

KABUL (Agencies) — A second town north of Kabul has fallen to the forces of former Afghan government military chief Ahmad Shah Masood, informed sources said on Sunday.

The sources said Charikar, a 90-minute drive north of Kabul, fell late on Saturday following five hours of fierce fighting between Mr. Masood's forces and the purist Islamic Taliban militia that drove him from the Afghan capital two weeks ago.

They said it fell a few hours after Masood took Jabbal-ol-Saraj, the Taliban front-line headquarters town at the mouth of the Salang Pass through the Hindu Kush mountains.

Charikar was peaceful for most of Sunday, but local people expected a Taliban

counter-attack, the sources said.

The fall of the two towns are a major setback for the Taliban, who are also facing hit-and-run raids by Masood forces and their allies closer to Kabul which have cut both roads to the north.

The Taliban were unable to penetrate the narrow gorge into the Panjshir, and on Tuesday Mr. Masood launched a counter-attack in the Salang Pass, then orchestrated a series of guerrilla strikes well behind the Taliban front-lines.

Mostly ethnic Tajik forces loyal to Mr. Masood had struck in and around Charikar over the last three days.

People in the mostly Tajik town said earlier in the week the largely ethnic

Pushun Taliban had been rounding up young men suspected to be fomenting opposition to the militia and driving them away to an unknown destination.

Mr. Masood's commanders have said the people of the town joined in the fight against the Taliban.

The charismatic Masood, who won a reputation as an outstanding guerrilla general in the 1980s when the Soviet army backed a communist government in Kabul, has also orchestrated guerrilla attacks even nearer Kabul.

Masood's forces have also struck at Bagram, Kabul's main airbase some 50 kilometres north of the city, and the Taliban have responded with bombing raids on suspected Masood positions in the village of Bagram next

to the base, witnesses said.

The attacks appear to have confined the Taliban to the roads, as Mr. Masood organised strikes reminiscent of his tactics in the 1980s.

They have disconcerted Taliban fighters, who struck back at the attackers near Kabul with tank fire and multiple rocket launchers.

The Taliban said on Saturday the attacks had been contained and pointed to smoking houses of people whom they said had led attacks against the Islamic militia. But, in sharp contrast to genial conversations with reporters earlier in the week, Taliban fighters on the road have become aggressive, beating two reporters on Saturday and smashing a television camera.

Mubarak: Mideast is boiling, Netanyahu has to amend ways

AMMAN (U.T.) — The Middle East situation is "boiling" following a spate of recent violence, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told Time magazine in an exclusive interview for the Oct. 21 issue of the magazine.

The recent tunnel crisis in Jerusalem incensed Egyptian public opinion, despite President Mubarak's previous admonitions for patience with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"I'm very, very, very upset. I am a man of peace," Mr. Mubarak told Time. Mr. Mubarak said he had long talks with Mr. Netanyahu in which the Israeli leader "promised me that he was going to implement what was signed before. Nothing happened. I can't understand it. Is this because of differences in his cabinet?" he asked.

Mr. Mubarak, who boycotted the recent Middle East summit at the White House, said he knew there



Hosni Mubarak

would be no output from the beginning. "I hope they can do something. The situation is boiling. The people are fed up all over the Arab World."

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat will not be able to adhere to Mr. Netanyahu's request for adjustments in light of

Israeli security concerns, the Egyptian president said. "It will mean the failure of Arafat among his people. If Arafat disappears, the Palestinians will not sit with folded arms. Violence may start, not only against the Israelis but against those who support the Israelis."

Egypt's relations with Israel are strained because "we are reflecting public opinion. The people are furious," Mr. Mubarak said. "Israel will be accepted when it gives the Arabs all the rights. Under Rabin and Shimon Peres, it made very good steps forward with the Arabs. Since Mr. Netanyahu came, everything is frozen. Everything is frozen."

Following is the full text of the interview, which was conducted at a retreat on the Suez Canal last week by Middle East correspondent Scott MacLeod and reporter Amany Radwan. The interview was made available to the Jordan Times by Time

(Continued on page 7)

Erbakan boosted ahead of censure vote

ANKARA (Agencies) — Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan got a morale boost from his party faithful who re-elected him as leader at a triumphalist congress on Sunday ahead of a parliamentary challenge this week to his brief tenure as modern Turkey's first Islamist premier.

"This government" will work in harmony until the year 2000," Mr. Erbakan said in a speech to a cheering crowd of 10,000 Welfare Party supporters in a packed sports hall.

Mr. Erbakan has received the support of all 956 party delegates who attended the vote, one Welfare official said after the election in which the party leader was unopposed.

Mr. Erbakan has headed Turkey's coalition government — formed by Welfare

with the conservative True Path Party of Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller — since June 23, after a five-month political deadlock caused by the failure of any single party to win an outright majority in the December vote.

Nicknamed "Hodja", meaning religious teacher, Mr. Erbakan, 69, remains the historic figurehead of the pro-Islamic grouping he has led since 1969.

Under his leadership, Welfare has slowly but steadily increased its political representation since 1983, making great strides in local elections in 1994 and last December's legislative vote, which threw him onto the international scene when he took over as head of government.

Sunday's congress was the Welfare Party's first

since its victory in last December's legislative election and coming to power in June.

Mr. Erbakan was welcomed to the podium by the strains of military marches played by a traditional Ottoman band. Followers waved red-and-white party flags and hand-held "sparkler" fireworks.

Mr. Erbakan, in a 90-minute speech, only briefly touched on an opposition censure motion he faces in parliament on Wednesday for a disastrous trip to Libya eight days ago.

"Why have they given a censure motion?" he asked. "They don't want peace at home and abroad, they want a fight."

The Libya trip exposed Turkey to criticism from both its hosts and Ankara's ally Washington. It badly

damaged his plans to take Turkey closer to the Muslim and Arab World.

Mr. Erbakan denied he was attempting to steer Muslim but secular Turkey away from the West.

"Turkey is carrying out its own individual foreign policy. We are not changing tack or anything like that," he said.

The opposition have accused Mr. Erbakan of bringing Turkey into disrepute with his Libya visit, during which Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi slammed Ankara for its treatment of the Kurds and its close ties to the West.

Parliament will debate and vote on Wednesday whether to go ahead with the censure motion. Mr. Erbakan would have to resign if the motion was approved by the 550-seat assembly.

Jordanian parties bury their hatchet to unite and condemn Israeli policies

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — There is more than meets the eye in the political statement that was signed and published on Saturday by 38 political parties, professional associations and independent organisations.

"The fact that 38 diverse groups got together and were willing to compromise on their different positions in order to come up with a unified stance that reflects the anger of the Kingdom's body politic at the policies of the Israeli government regarding the Palestinian people and peace negotiations with the Arabs is important," said former Prime Minister Taher Masri, who took the initiative to organise the joint effort.

"But the real significance of the statement lies in the consensus that was built among its signatories, whose political views on the peace process vary from complete approval to ideolo-

gical rejection, around the principal policy guidelines contained in it," Mr. Masri added.

The statement condemned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policies and urged the Arab and Muslim governments that signed agreements with Israel to "reconsider their relations with Israel in light of the Israeli policies and actions towards our Arab Palestinian people and other Arab rights."

The signatories also urged the Arabs to resist all forms of normalisation of ties with "the Zionist enemy."

These demands reflect conspicuous compromises by centrist parties like Al Ahd, which fully supported the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and the government's push towards normalisation of ties with Israel. But they also show a toning down of the stand of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) which did not ask for reconsidering the peace treaty but insisted on its



Taher Masri

cancellation.

Parties like Al Ahd do not use the IAF's reference to Israel as the "Zionist enemy" and the IAF does not call the Jewish state the "state of Israel."

"The purpose of the statement was to show the depth of the feelings of the Jordanian people towards Israel's hardline policies

and in order for it to have the weight it deserves it had to be signed by as many groups as possible," Mr. Masri told the Jordan Times.

"Accordingly, all the groups understood this and looked for common denominators," that express their anger at the policies of Israel, Mr. Masri added, explaining that the common stand formulated in the statement does not cancel the individual positions of the signatories.

Mr. Masri said that statement is a message "to all" about the anger of the Jordanian people at the Israeli policies which are pushing the whole region towards renewed conflict and threaten the failure of the peace process.

This assessment is shared by His Majesty the King, whose severe criticism of Mr. Netanyahu and warnings that his actions are pushing the area towards

(Continued on page 7)

Mordechai denies Netanyahu rift

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's defence ministry issued an unusual statement Sunday denying reports of a growing rift between Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"In response to various recent media reports, Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defence Minister Mordechai wish to make it clear that relations between them are excellent," defence ministry spokesman Avi Benayahu said in a communique.

"They are cooperating in order to advance the peace process, while maintaining Israel's security," the statement said, adding that the two men consult each other "on a daily basis in order to advance these goals."

"The prime minister and defence minister hold each other in high esteem and very much regret that various elements are trying, unsuccessfully, to drive a wedge between them," it said.

The ministry statement, issued on the same day Mr. Mordechai was due to head for his first official working

visit to the United States, followed a spate of reports that Israel's military establishment was growing increasingly alarmed with Mr. Netanyahu's hardline policies.

Mr. Mordechai, a former general, joined Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party just months before last May's elections and had previously been flirting with the Labour government of Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Since coming to office, he has appeared as a relative moderate in government debates over how quickly and to what extent to implement Palestinian self-rule agreements signed by the previous government, notably concerning the long-overdue Israeli withdrawal from Hebron.

In other developments, the Israeli media on Sunday published a joint letter to Mr. Netanyahu from 33 army officers and soldiers who complained that since the right-wing premier took office, "we get the impression that you are making every effort to drag us into an

unjustified war and to melt any chance for peace."

"In light of recent events, our motivation has waned and without a change we do not see how we will be able to fight in the next war," they said.

The letter was sent to Mr. Netanyahu following an unprecedented eruption of fighting between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian police and civilians late last month.

The unrest erupted after Mr. Netanyahu authorised the opening of a new entrance to a controversial archaeological tunnel near Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque.

On Friday the mass circulation daily Yediot Aharonot described a "crisis of confidence" it said had developed between Mr. Netanyahu and army top brass.

It said Mr. Netanyahu accused army officials of being too closely aligned to the peace policies of the previous Labour government while the defence establishment says his refusal to implement self-rule agreements with Palestinians was undermining Israeli security.

COLUMN 8

2 brains keep Chinese baby awake

BEIJING (R) — A Chinese baby boy with two brains is doing well — but hardly sleeps because his brains work in rotation, the Xinhua News Agency. The little boy was born in Chaoyang city in northeastern Liaoning province in July, 1995. He is growing well and does not need surgery, the official agency quoted doctors as saying. However, the baby only sleeps for about one hour a night — and sometimes for as little as 20 minutes — and seldom sleeps during the day, Xinhua said Saturday. "Doctors have found that the youngster has two brains, which work on a rotating basis, which means the baby sleeps less," Xinhua said.

Malaysian state says no to Jacko

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia's central Selangor state government Sunday upheld its ban on U.S. pop superstar Michael Jackson from staging his first concert in Malaysia, citing religious grounds. "We fear the concert will involve elements contrary to the teachings of Islam," a Selangor state government official said, confirming the state government's decision to ban Jackson. Selangor Chief Minister Muhammad Taib said late Saturday it would not entertain any appeal against the ban. "We have decided not to allow the concert in view of the values which are unsuitable to a God-fearing society like ours," Mr. Taib was reported in local news reports Sunday. The pop star, known for his hip-swinging and pelvic thrusting antics on stage, was to have made his appearance at the sprawling Shah Alam Stadium in Selangor on Oct. 27. But last Monday, a Selangor state municipal councillor said local authorities had rejected the organisers' application to hold the concert and told them to appeal if they were unhappy with the decision. Concert organiser Jojo Entertainment said Sunday it had not yet officially informed of the final decision. Some tickets for the concert have been sold.

Hong Kong says no to 'ladies' night'

HONG KONG (AFP) — Hong Kong is to punish bars that offer women free or cheap drinks but charge men full price, saying "ladies' night" discriminates against males, the local press reported Sunday. "Ladies' night" is a legendary tactic in Hong Kong to lure women — and hence men — into the bustling nightlife districts of Wanchai and Lan Kwai Fong. Guidelines are to be distributed this week, warning bar and club owners they face prosecution if they give more favourable treatment to women than to men, the Hong Kong Standard reported. It quoted one bar manager, Eric Lowe, as defining "ladies' night" as good food and a useful money-spinner. "It's the law of the land — where women are, men want to be," he said. "If men were allowed free drinks they would abuse the privilege far more than women."

Shanghai launches first lottery

SHANGHAI (R) — Shanghai has launched its first Beijing-approved lottery, with proceeds going towards sports organisations, the business news reported Sunday. The lottery tickets, which allow for immediate cash prizes, were issued on Oct. 5 with the top prize set at 100,000 yuan (\$12,000), said, adding that tickets had sold out in some places. Chinese financial authorities last year issued a blanket ban on all lotteries in the country unless they received specific approval from the central bank, the People's Bank of China.